



**2022 Working Internationally Conference:
Cynefin - Museum Practice for Future Generations
7 - 8 April 2022, 13:00 - 17:00 GMT, online**

Cynefin (*ku-nev-in*), the evocative Welsh word, describes our relationship to the environment in which we live. The 2022 Working Internationally Conference connects pioneering museum practice from Wales and across the UK with international museums on the challenges of climate change, ageing, and bridging community divides.

Over two afternoons, the online conference explores successful and award-winning museum projects designed to build better for future generations. Welsh museum professionals and their UK and international counterparts will discuss how museum practice can lead and contribute to the needs of future generations.

Session topics include:

- Climate Change
- Agents of Change
- Bridging Communities
- ICOM UK Grant Programmes
- New thinking around museum programming for people living with dementia
- Career challenges facing Students and Early Career Professionals in 2022
- Word of Mouth: Telling stories of identity in indigenous language
- Museum Practices and Refugees

Simultaneous translation to Welsh, and closed captions in English, will be provided for the main conference sessions.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full conference programme, speakers and session descriptions.

The main conference sessions run from 13:00 - 17:00 GMT each day.

[Booking](#) is now open via Eventbrite. ICOM UK, ICOM, NMDC and Welsh Federation members receive a 50% discount on tickets. Tickets start at £10 for ICOM UK and ICOM student members and volunteers from Welsh Federation member organisations. There is an unlimited ticket option for institutional members of ICOM UK, NMDC and the Welsh Federation, which enables an unlimited number of staff to attend the conference for £100.

The 2022 Working Internationally Conference is organised by ICOM UK in partnership with the National Museum Directors' Council, the Federation of Museums & Art Galleries of Wales, with support from the British Council and Barker Langham. This conference is part funded by Welsh Government.

Conference Programme

Thursday 7 April 2022

All times GMT (UK time)

13:00 - 13:10 Welcome and Introduction

13:10 - 13:20 Official opening by Dawn Bowden MS, Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport and Chief Whip, Welsh Government

13:20 - 14:15 Climate Change, a conversation with:

- Dr Christian Baars, Head of Collections Care Department, National Museums Liverpool & ICOM UK Co-Chair
- Dr Jenny Newell, Manager Climate Change Projects, Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia
- Zehra Ahmed, Sustainability & Access Projects Coordinator, Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

Climate change affects every aspect of life on planet Earth. This means that every museum has something to say about it. In this session we want to focus on the practical steps museums can take to reduce the impact of their operations and thus carbon emissions, and how we can change the conversation through exhibitions and online content on Climate Change solutions. Decarbonisation, energy efficiency, circular economy, government targets – what do these terms mean, and how can any museum translate them into concrete action? How are Museums curating content on climate change and the solutions that exist right here and now? If you are not a decision-maker, how do you persuade the people who are? We will cut through the jargon and give you ideas about specific measures you will be able to take home and implement in your museum.

14:15 - 14:45 Working Internationally: ICOM UK Grant Programmes

Chaired by Nigel Sadler, Head of the ICOM UK Bursary Committee & Independent Consultant, Sands of Time Consultancy, this session illustrates how grant programmes managed and run by ICOM UK have benefited members and museums to meet their international plans to work with other museums and collections. The session looks at how museums and museum staff in Wales have used travel grants to support their projects and help to reinterpret their collections based on their work.

14:45 - 15:00 Break

15:00 - 15:50 Introduction to the afternoon sessions by David Anderson, Director General of Amgueddfa Cymru | National Museum Wales

Agents of Change, a conversation with:

- Andrew Ogun, Agent for Change, Arts Council of Wales
- Mike Murawski, Independent consultant, Author, and Change Leader

15:50 - 16:45 Bridging Communities, a conversation with:

- Carrie Canham, Curator at Ceredigion Museum, Wales
- Rachel Platt, Director of Community Engagement at Frazier History Museum, Louisville, KY, USA

16:45 - 17:00 Closing session

Friday 8 April 2022

All times GMT (UK time)

13:00 - 13:10 Welcome and Introduction

13:10 - 13:20 Details TBA

13:20 - 14:15 New thinking around museum programming for people living with Dementia, a conversation with:

- Carol Rodgers, Director of Engagement at National Museums Liverpool
- Karin Molson, Learning Manager at Monmouth Museum, Wales.

Karin Molson and Carol Rogers discuss how policies such as the Welsh Dementia Action Plan, Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 and international initiatives regarding living and ageing well have led to new ways of thinking about programming museum services for Dementia.

14:15 - 14:45 Career challenges facing Students and Early Career Professionals in 2022

Early career professionals and students Dr Arran Rees, University of Leeds; Aurelie Debaene, University of Kent; Huaiyuan Ren, University of Kent ; Yu-jui Yang, University of York; Wanting Zhang, University of Manchester; and April Yang, University of Manchester discuss the challenges and psychological discrepancies many students and emerging professionals face when they first enter the cultural sector. It might be a lack of job opportunities, new methods of executing work, such as online exhibiting, or it might be the difference between what one acquires academically versus what one actually has to do in practice – the dream versus reality. All of these can be described as challenges and obstacles, but can also turn into great opportunities. Students and emerging professionals are invited to come together in this session to discuss the challenges they are about to encounter.

14:45 - 15:00 Break

15:00 - 15:50 Barker Langham Session - Word of Mouth: Telling stories of identity in indigenous language

15:50 - 16:45 Museum Practices and Refugees, a conversation with:

- Elena Perez-Alvaro, NRF SARCHI Postdoctoral Fellow Nelson Mandela University, Heritage consultant, Licit Cultural Heritage Ltd
- Jo Furber, Curator, Dylan Thomas Centre
- Dr Emma Cunliffe, Research Associate, Newcastle University, Blue Shield International Secretariat
- Eric Ngalle Charles, Author.

This session looks at how museums work with and about refugees, exploring the increasing participation of museums in safeguarding human rights. In the early 2000s, after Swansea became a “dispersal area”, the Dylan Thomas Centre began working with displaced people (refugees, asylum seekers) and local people to hold celebratory community events at the Centre. The Dylan Thomas Centre became a focal point and safe space for these often-neglected communities.

Blue Shield, on the other hand, is an international, voluntary organisation that was created to protect cultural heritage during conflict and during and after natural disasters. They also work with displaced people, since museums and cultural heritage sites during and after conflict are reused by desperate refugees looking for shelter, which may also damage sites.

16:45 - 17:00 Closing session

Online networking sessions will be added shortly.

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#WI2022conf