

Museum International

Vol. 72, N° 285 – 286: Museums and Gender

Call for Papers

ICOM is preparing an issue of *Museum International* on the theme *Museums and Gender*. All proposals submitted will be assessed for suitability and if chosen, the *subsequent* articles will go through a double-blind peer review process. The issue is expected to be published, in collaboration with Taylor&Francis/Routledge, in June 2020.

Museums and Gender

This issue of *Museum International* aims to generate serious reflection on gender issues in museums, how they are intertwined, and the role of museums in a world prioritising gender equality. Issues of gender impact every layer of museum practice, from governance to visitation. This issue focuses on gender representation within museum management, operations and trusteeship, as well as in collections, exhibitions, education and public programmes.

As the social construction and politics of gender vary between societies, issues of gender and sexuality within institutions are as broad as they are specific. Questions around whose objects and stories are being preserved and promoted, and from what perspective, are as much of a concern to history, culture and living museums as to science and natural history museums. A reflexive examination of the role cultural and heritage institutions play in understanding gender as well as how they manage their own gendered construction is overdue. Can museums lead the way in terms of institutional change on issues of gender equality?

Museums are envisaged as guardians of the past, educators/entertainers of the present, arbiters of the future. From the lack of female artists, to carefully stored away imagery of powerful goddesses and intersex beings, some museums have maintained an imperial model of cultural values embedded in the origins of most early collecting and display. Others are challenging this system of stereotypes and phobias to better represent a more inclusive history. Addressing this inherent gender bias in museums requires great effort on the part of the museum sector as a whole.

Possible topics related to gender representation include, but are not limited to:

- Museum management and operations
- Gender equality/biases (pay gap; workplace safety)
- Sexuality and discrimination
- Representation, both historic and contemporary
- Gender and imperialism
- Policy and ethics
- Sexism and misogyny
- Education
- Visitation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Collections and archives
- Public programming

We welcome contributions that will bring new, provocative thoughts and solutions to this essential topic for the museum community.

Submission process

Abstracts of between 250 and 300 words, written in English, French or Spanish, should be submitted for selection to publications@icom.museum

Contributions will be on a voluntary basis.

The following information should be included with the abstract:

- Title of submitted paper
- Name(s) of author(s)
- Professional background

The abstract submission deadline is **13 September 2019**.

The abstracts received will be examined on a blind review basis by a panel of experts on public policy, sustainable development and museums.

Museum International is currently produced in English language only. However, **proposals in the other two official languages of ICOM (French and Spanish) will also be considered**. If your abstract is selected, you may write your full article in either English, French or Spanish.

Abstract structure for Museum International articles:

An abstract is a summary of the journal manuscript.

It should be no longer than 250-300 words, and provide a succinct overview of the article.

The abstract should read as a **standalone document**.

Abstracts sent to *Museum International* should include the following sections:

1/**Introduction**: describes the overall topic dealt with in the article and provides background to the study.

2/**Research question(s)/Critical issue(s)**: explains the key research question or critical issue, by stating the problem addressed. It should also highlight the gap in existing research on the topic.

3/**Innovation**: explains the approach to the research question/issue, and the new perspective adopted.

4/**Methodology**: explains how the research was carried out (e.g. case studies, interviews, etc.) or the means used to address the critical issue.

5/ **Conclusion**: outlines the impact of the research or the outcome of addressing the critical issue, and why the findings/outcomes are important.

6/ **Selected references**: a selection of the references that will be cited in the article.