

# corrymeela



In partnership with  
**Belfast City Council**



**Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council**



Queen's University  
Belfast



Ulster  
University



**WILLIAM & MARY**  
CHARTERED 1693

## ***Heritage as Reconciliation***

A winter school exploring heritage practice in contested societies.

Monday 15 January -Friday 19 January, 2018.

Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

### **Theme 3: Museums and the Heritage of Conflict**

#### **Overview:**

The focus of this session is on the role of museums in facilitating engagement with the heritage of conflict and its impact on current societies in transition. This will be done by looking at how objects and museum spaces can be used. This includes an examination of the process by which material culture can be used in reflective, personally apposite engagement to develop nuanced understandings of past events and contemporary situations. We will also consider the roles and challenges of using museum spaces and professional skills to facilitate and mediate democratically, as well as interrogating assumptions about power relationships and hierarchies.

It is hoped that the discussion will help map the roles of museums and museum practices in the wider context of the overall heritage field and the dynamic between academic and hands on approaches.



#### **Robert Heslip –Belfast City Council**

Previously a history curator at the Ulster Museum between 1978 and 2006, Robert has also served as a board member, chair, as well as in training and policy roles for Irish Museums Association between 1991 and 2006. He was a board member at Public Achievement 2001 – 2007 and facilitated on the Spectator to Co-Curator project. He has taught on heritage topics at number of universities and is currently a board member of MINOM.



#### **Helen Perry –Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council**

Helen has successfully delivered a number of participative learning projects exploring contested heritage through collections, including 'The Project of Plantation', North East Peace III Cultural Fusions programme and 'On the Brink: The Politics of Conflict 1914-1916'. CCG Council covers approximately one quarter of Northern Ireland's area.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

Community Relations Council



## Speakers:



### Prof Laura McAtackney

Laura McAtackney is an Associate Professor in Sustainable Heritage Management at Aarhus University in Denmark having previously worked at University College Dublin, University of Edinburgh and University of Oxford. She has specialised in the material remnants of conflict and how they 'trouble' transitional societies, especially in relation to defunct prisons and the artefactual remains associated with them. She is particularly interested in how post-conflict identity is shaped and facilitated through heritage creation and presentation, be that in unofficial memorials or museum collections. She published *An Archaeology of the Troubles: the dark heritage of Long Kesh / Maze* in 2014 (OUP).



### Dr Pedro Pereira

Pedro Pereira Leit is a Professor at Lusofona University in Lisbon, holding a Ph.D in Museology. He is currently a Board Member of the International Movement for New Museology (MINOM) and ICOM Portugal.

In the last 6 years he has worked on the research project "Global Heritages" that aims to observe the relevance of the use of collective memory in four territories linked by common processes. It looks at the use of heritage to solve conflicts and suggests museological processes which can contribute to transition and cognitive justice. The research is carried out in Portugal and Spain, in the Border area; In Mozambique and in Brazil.



### Nicole Van Dijk

Nicole van Dijk is curator and leads the research and development programs of Museum Rotterdam. She is responsible for participatory research and community projects. These include 'City as muse' a longitudinal participatory project with Rotterdammers in creative dialogue with the museum. These resulted in more in depth projects focussed on citizens and communities including 'Surviving Carnisse', 'True Rotterdammer I and II', 'Connection by heritage' and the 'Authentic Rotterdam Heritage' a new way of collecting for museums. In the Active Collection Centre she is building an active collection which consists of objects, people and communities in the city playing a connecting role in the contemporary city - the heritage of the future which has more social power to connect communities and start social empowerment.

Nicole's practice is driven by using the museum's experience and collections and combining it with the contemporary experience of people living in the city. This creates a fusion of collections and participatory approaches to programmes and governance to shape the role of the 21st century museum. Nicole studied at Art School and holds a Masters' degree in Cultural Anthropology.