International museum exhibitions and intercultural dialogue

February 2, 2016

Hunter Council Chamber
Victoria University of Wellington
New Zealand

This one-day symposium is presented by the Museum & Heritage Studies programme at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, in association with the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO and the Escuela National de Conservación Restauración y Museografía del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), México. It aims to bring together academics, museum professionals, cultural policy experts and other stakeholders to discuss the links between museums, exhibition exchange, cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue.

Programme

9.00 - 10.30 Welcome and Session one
Introduction to international museum exhibitions and intercultural dialogue (Lee Davidson & Leticia Pérez)
  • Overview of the exhibition exchange between Mexico and Australasia featuring Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa exhibitions – E Tū Ake: Standing Strong (France, Mexico, Canada) and Aztecs: Conquest and Glory (New Zealand and Australia, in collaboration with INAH, México, and in partnership with Melbourne Museum and Australian Museum)
  • Outline of the transnational research project focused on this exchange

10.30 - 11.00 Morning tea

11.00 - 12.15 Session 2
International exhibitions and cultural diplomacy
  • Overview and New Zealand context (Simon Mark)
  • The role of exhibitions in cultural diplomacy: A panel discussion with sector and diplomatic representatives

12.15 - 1.15 Lunch
1.15-3.00 Session 3
Intercultural dialogue at play: Findings from the research project
- Touring exhibitions and museum practice
  — Cultural representation and intercultural understanding (Lee Davidson)
  — Intercultural interactions in exhibition exchanges (Leticia Pérez)
- Visitor meaning-making in the touring exhibition (Alice Meads)

3.00-3.30 Afternoon tea

3.30-5.00 Session 4
International museum exhibitions – what constitutes success?
- *Aztecs*: markers of success
- Evaluating success and the future of international museum exhibitions: A panel discussion with museum sector representatives
- Wrap-up

Speakers

**Dr Lee Davidson** is a Senior Lecturer in Museum & Heritage Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. Since 2011 she has been involved in two interconnected transnational research projects on international touring exhibitions. For the past two years she has been a visiting professor on the International Course of Museology at the Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía (ENCRyM), INAH, México.

**Leticia Pérez** is professor and Coordinator of the Post Graduate Studies Program in Museology at ENCRyM, INAH, in México. Previously she worked as the Sub-director of International Exhibitions at INAH’s National Museum Coordination. Her masters thesis was an analysis of INAH’s cultural policy on international exhibition exchanges.

**Dr Simon Mark** works at the College of Creative Arts at Massey University. Previous roles include at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade in public diplomacy, and at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage managing the cultural diplomacy programme. His PhD from the University of Auckland explored the cultural diplomacy of Canada, New Zealand and India.

**Alice Meads** completed her Master of Museum & Heritage Studies at Victoria University of Wellington in 2015. Alice conducted interviews with visitors to *Aztecs* in Wellington, Melbourne and Sydney. Her masters dissertation was titled ‘*Aztecs* at Our Place: Meaning-making in an international touring exhibition’. She is currently Archivist Research Services, Archives NZ.

To learn more about the touring exhibitions research project see [https://leedavidsonresearch.wordpress.com/](https://leedavidsonresearch.wordpress.com/) or email lee.davidson@vuw.ac.nz.

We thank Córdova Plaza, México, for their support.