

# POSTER 19

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### PHACS

Public History as Citizen Science of the Past

#### PROJECT

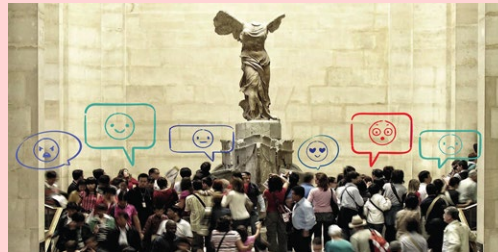
Develop new public participatory methods at every step of history production to include, empower and engage public groups in critical debates about contemporary history in Europe.

#### PARTICIPATORY PUBLIC HISTORY IN MUSEUMS

A variety of public history practices exist, which are based on Nina Simon's Participatory Museum Theory that objects and heritage serve as connectors between curators, historians, communities and visitors. This offers the opportunity of creating a dialogue with the institution, its staff and its audience and of engaging with these actors to produce something tangible and concrete together. Involving participation and other core elements of the discipline of public history like the co-creation of a participatory exhibition or a collaboration to modify and make more participatory existing parts of the collection constitutes the goal of this project.

#### COLLABORATIVE PARTICIPATORY MUSEUMS

If applied to the museum context, shared authority, public participation, valued diversity of experiences and voices, allow for a variety of narratives to emerge and to enrich history as it is generally perceived and studied. It is through the implementation of public participation and of the notion of shared authority, among the most contentious points, that questions raise concerning the existence and legitimacy of a dominant narrative and historical perspective, but also concerning the power dynamics shaping history, its production and institutions throughout time. This research is focused on how history is conceived, produced, performed and exhibited in museums. To provide a more tangible and practical dimension, several partnerships with history museums have been established.



#### RESEARCH QUESTIONS: THE AIMS

##### UNDERSTAND the process

Can history museums work with public participation?

How?

- Study existing literature and cases
- Elaborate own approach/model to implement participation

##### TEST the models

How can history museums design participatory frameworks and deal with multiple voices?

- Create partnership with various museums
- Implement workshops and participatory designs

##### ASSESS public participation

What impacts do multiple participants and their contributions bring on the narratives and the institutions?

- Evaluate how participation and its products affect history production and its performance in museums

#### METHODOLOGY: PRACTICAL THEORY (Barge and Craig, 2009)

##### MAPPING

Analysing and presenting the existing approaches and theories

##### ENGAGED REFLECTION

Position the research in the field and propose own perspective and techniques

##### TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

practical and tangible approach through the practices tested in the museum partners



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