

Position Paper

Intangible Heritage and the Museum in an Age of Superdiversity

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The Challenge of Superdiversity

- Diversification of Diversity
- Conurbations as ‘contact zones’
- Dynamic interaction
- New hybrid forms of culture
- Avoiding the pitfall of essentialism
- Heritage communities: fluid, dynamic networks
- Multiple realities: multiple, if not contending, cultural narratives

Museums: the Challenge of Migration

- Turkenpension Dutch Open Air Museum
- Photo exhibition Amsterdam Museum: Anatolië in Amsterdam
- Wijkcurators Rotterdam Museum

New Museology – Socio-museology

- Social role in society
- Museums as contact zones, connecting people
- A people centred museology
- Participatory museum
- Community empowerment
- Once again: avoiding the pitfall of essentialism

Pitfal of essentialism

- Musealization
- Canonification
- Folklorization

Opportunities of Intangible Heritage

- Strong connection with ‘meaning’ and with social practices within society
- Becomes meaningful in ever changing fluid contexts
- Interplay between various identities and a motor for creativity
- Open and inclusive approach
- Taking into account conflicts over identity: negotiating differences

Museums as Cultural Brokers

- Participatory collecting
- Connecting people
- Listen to multiple networks around social practices, objects and stories
- From preservation to safeguarding
- From 'heritage of the past' to 'heritage in the making'
- Co-creation and shared authority

Laboratory function of museums

- Experimenting with superdiversity and dialogical heritage
- Platform function / museums as contactzones
- Adding creativity to the discussion
- Co-creating with other stakeholders within society

Statements

1. Museums should engage in contemporary society, responding to the new challenges of superdiversity.
2. Museums should provide spaces of reflexivity to go beyond dichotomous othering discourses.
3. Intangible Heritage can help to make museums more relevant for society.
4. Intangible heritage calls for the development of participatory methodologies to engage heritage communities and heritage bearers in their projects and opt for an open and inclusive approach and in which heritage communities are interpreted as dynamic and fluid networks.
5. Museums should consider to act as laboratories where different people