



**INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE
AND MUSEUMS:**

**CRITICAL APPROACHES
TO ENGAGEMENT
AND MANAGEMENT**

Manchester, UK, 10th -12th April 2018

PEACE

DISASTERS

LIFE

WEATHER





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BACKGROUND

Anthropogenic climate change is one of the defining issues of our time. Extending far beyond the scientific sphere, climate change influences, and is influenced by, politics, economics, culture and the wider environment. Museums and other cultural institutions can play a crucial role in engaging and empowering people and communities, both locally and globally, as we face the climate challenge. The importance of this role is recognized in the Paris Agreement of 2015 and in a raft of local and national policies and strategies.

This conference is aimed at those working in, or concerned with, museums and climate change. It aims to provide and encourage critical perspectives upon a range of museum activities, in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, collections management and development, climate change communication, public and civic engagement. It also aims to showcase projects and approaches that have explored these topics, across all scales, from the hyper-local to the global.

The conference aims to catalyse and enable cross-sectoral action, to support the development of partnerships, and generally to provide support to those working to meet the climate challenge through museums.

WHO THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR

Presenters and delegates will come from a wide range of sectors, including (but not restricted to):

1. people working in the museum and wider heritage/cultural sector;
2. artists and others from the creative industries;
3. university researchers and students;
4. members of NGOs working with climate change, culture and heritage, including representatives from the UN, and national development and aid agencies;
5. members of social movements;
6. museum and heritage consultants;
7. other interested parties.



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AIMS

The Symposium has the following aims:

- a) to provide museum workers, research institutions, universities, NGOs, cultural institutions, government and development aid agencies, and enterprises from across the world with an opportunity to present their work in the field of climate change and museums
- b) to provide a platform for the exchange of information, ideas and experiences from projects and initiatives (whether completed, ongoing or emerging) focusing on climate change in relation to museums, especially successful initiatives and good practice across the world
- c) to discuss methodological approaches and experiences which explore the role of museums in a changing climate show
- d) to network the participants and provide a platform to promote collaboration.

Participants will be invited to contribute towards an edited volume entitled '**Climate Change and Museums: critical approaches to engagement and management**'. This book will be aimed at a wide readership, notably those concerned with the interfaces of climate change and museums, museum curators and educators, policy makers, researchers and students. The book will be a further volume of the award-winning series "Climate Change Management" published by Springer, which since its creation in-2008 has become the world's leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final.

THEMES

The Symposium will explore the following interconnected themes:

1. The role that museums have to play in enabling climate action and adaptation.
2. Interpreting and exhibiting climate change to promote engagement: information, inspiration, action.
3. Collecting climate change and its impacts.
4. Collections management and climate change: reducing impacts for positive environmental outcomes.
5. The future of museums and museum practice in a changing climate.
6. Partnerships between museums and others towards climate change action



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ORGANISERS

Professor Walter Leal (Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Manchester Metropolitan University, International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP))

Henry McGhie, Head of Collections and Curator of Zoology, Manchester Museum (University of Manchester)

Technical Support

- Dr Mihaela Sima, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy

SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE
COMMUNICATION AND WORLD HERITAGE

Cooperating Organisations

- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- Baltic University Programme

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 2: posters

Participants will have the opportunity to exhibit posters describing their work and to distribute information to other participants.

Strand 1: presentations

Presentations will be a combination of plenary and parallel sessions, organized thematically.



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DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th October 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th January 2018

Deadline for registrations: 30th January 2018

Deadlines are important, so that the conference book can be produced as soon as possible following the event.

FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of £ 200 (professionals) or £ 100 (for students) will be charged to those who register until 30th November 2017. The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on 11th-12th April 2018 as well as the evening reception on 11th April 2018. The fee includes an electronic copy of the "Handbook of Climate Change Resilience" to those who have contributed to it. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

The Symposium, together with social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact and network with delegates from around the world and with a very broad range of experience and insights.

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Professor Walter Leal: info@iccip.net or

Henry McGhie: henry.mcghie@manchester.ac.uk

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CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Dr Mihaela Sima Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy E-mail:
simamik@yahoo.com

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information. Please send your abstract to Svenja Scheday at: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de.

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SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

School of Science and the Environment

Manchester Metropolitan University

Chester Street

Manchester, M1 5GD

United Kingdom

E-mail: info@iccip.net

Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn-

prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.