

WORKSHOP

CRITICAL HERITAGES (CoHERE): PERFORMING AND REPRESENTING IDENTITIES IN EUROPE

Work Package 2: the Use of Past in Political Discourse and the Representation of Islam in European Museums

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■ INTRODUCTION

The use of past in political discourse and the representation of Islam in European museums investigates public/popular discourses and dominant understandings of a homogeneous 'European heritage' and the exclusion of groups such as minorities from a stronger inclusion into European society. The Work Package 2 (WP2) of the project [CoHERE](#) focuses on the position of 'Others' within or outwith European heritages and identities, attending particularly to the place and perception of Islam and to legacies of colonialism in contemporary European societies.

WP2 investigates public/popular discourses and dominant understandings of a homogeneous 'European heritage' and the ways in which they are mobilized by specific political actors to advance their agendas and to exclude groups such as minorities from a stronger inclusion into European society. What notions of European heritage circulate broadly in the public sphere and in political discourse? How do the 'politics of fear' relate to such notions of European heritage and identity across and beyond Europe and the EU? How is the notion of a European heritage and memory used not only to include and connect Europeans but also to exclude some of them? We are interested in looking into the relationship between a European memory and heritage-making and circulating notions of 'race', ethnicity, religion and civilization as well as contemporary forms of discrimination grounded in the idea of incommensurable cultural and memory differences.

This Workshop will provide a venue for the team members to exchange their ideas about the rise of the populist political rhetoric in everyday life, which is mostly capitalized by the populist political elite on Euroscepticism, anti-globalism, anti-Muslim and anti-migrant sentiments, Islamophobia, nativism, politics of fear, anti-elitism, anti-institutionalism, post-truth, and anti-politics. The Workshop will also create an opportunity for the researchers to translate the initial findings of the field-work conducted in Germany, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey on the rise of populist movements to the language of museumology in order to come up with some ideas about the reconstruction of the

European museums so that they could contribute to the creation of a more cohesive European public space.

The Workshop is organized under the auspices of Cultural Pluralism Program, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute. The support of the [Cultural Pluralism Program](#) led by Prof. Anna Triandafyllidou is very much appreciated.

The Team of the WP2 is led by Professor Ayhan Kaya and researchers from Istanbul Bilgi University (TK) with Dr Chiara de Cesari from University of Amsterdam (NL), and researchers from Newcastle University (UK), in collaboration with Dr Wayne Modest from National Museum of World Cultures (NL).

■ PROGRAMME

09.30 - 09.45	Registration and Welcome by Anna Triandafyllidou EUI
09.45 - 10.15	Presentation of the Findings of the Fieldwork by Ayhan Kaya Istanbul Bilgi University and EUI
10.15 - 11.15	Discussion
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 12.00	Presentation on Right-Wing Populism in Europe by Francesca Scrinzi EUI
12.00 - 12.30	Discussion
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 14.30	An Initial Survey of Museums: Post-Colonial or not? by Lora Sariaslan University of Amsterdam
14.30 - 17.00	Contributions by Chiara de Cesari University of Amsterdam, Wayne Modest VU University and National Museum of World Cultures, Chris Whitehead Newcastle University, Susannah Eckersley Newcastle University and Gönül Bozoğlu Newcastle University
19.30	Dinner at Piatti & Fagotti, San Domenico di Fiesole

■ PARTICIPANTS

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