



TRACES Final Conference and Exhibition

CONFERENCE

Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts

17 January 2019 | MUDEC - Museo delle Culture, Milan

18 January 2019 | Politecnico di Milano, Milan

EXHIBITION

Contentious Objects/Ashamed Subjects

Artistic research methods and strategies regarding images, objects, spaces, and events of contentious cultural heritages

18 January – 6 February 2019 | Politecnico di Milano, Milan

TRACES is a three-year project funded in 2016 by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. Through an innovative research methodology, based on an artistic/ethnographic approach, TRACES analyses challenges, opportunities and practices inherent in transmitting difficult pasts and heritages in contemporary Europe.

The conclusion of the TRACES Project will be marked by a **two-day conference** "Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts", that will take place in Milan on 17-18 January 2019. The symposium is conceived to provide a critical overview on the main findings and results ensuing from the investigations and the Creative Co-productions developed within the project, as well as to foster the critical debate about the transmission of contentious heritages and the process of "Reflexive Europeanisation." The meeting intends to promote an inter-disciplinary and forward-looking discussion aimed at opening new perspectives based on the Project outcomes.

The Final Event will culminate in the opening of **TRACES final exhibition** "Contentious Objects/Ashamed Subjects", curated by Suzana Milevska at the Politecnico di Milano.

CONFERENCE

→ Thursday 17th – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | 1st day

MUDEC Museo delle Culture

Conference Room, via Tortona 56, 20144 Milan

14.00 | Registration

14.30 | Conference Opening and Welcome:

Klaus Schönberg, TRACES Project Coordinator
Carolina Orsini, MUDEC Conservation Office

14.50–15.20 | Opening Lectures:

“Becoming Contentious: Difficult Cultural Heritages and Artistic Research,” Suzana Milevska
“Beyond Creative Co-Productions: What Can Be Learned from the TRACES CCP Model,” Tal Adler

15.30–16.40 | Lecture Performances:

“Arresting Decline: The Activities of CCP1 in Mediaș, Transylvania,” CCP1
“Awkward Objects of Genocide: Polish Vernacular Artists Face the Holocaust,” CCP2
“Casting of Death: Challenging the Artist’s Role in Making Heritage Contentious,” CCP3

16.45–17.15 | *Coffee break*

17.15–18.00 | Lecture Performances:

“Disposal: Reflections on Human Remains as Hazardous Material,” CCP4
“Dispersed Presence Transforming Long Kesh/Maze,” CCP5

18.15–19.00 | Art&Research Panel “New Forms of Collaboration”:

Francesca Lanz (moderator), Susannah Eckersley, Giulia Grechi, Maite Muñoz Iglesias

19.00 | Closing Remarks and cocktail

→ Friday 18th – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | 2nd day

POLIMI - Politecnico di Milano

School AUIC, Aula Rogers, via Ampère 2, 20133 Milan

13.30 | Registration

14.00–14.30 | Conference Opening and Welcome:

Ilaria Valente, Dean of AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Luca Basso Peressut, Deputy Director DASTU Department, Politecnico di Milano

14.30–15.00 | “Disturbing the Peace: Museums, Conflict and Activism for Social Justice,” Bernadette Lynch

15.00–15.30 | “Art, Anthropology, Contested Heritage: Ethnography and Art Practices,” Arnd Schneider

15.30–16.15 | “Conflict Learning: Mediating Contentious Cultural Heritages, Conflict and the Unpredictable,”
Nora Landkammer, Karin Schneider
“After the Project,” Julia Albrecht

16.15–16.30 | *Coffee break*

16.30–17.00 | “Milan Contentious Memories: Arts, the City and Political Engagement,” Luca Basso Peressut

17.00–17.45 | “Towards a New Imagination of Europe? The Politics of Contentious Heritage in Institutional
and Everyday Performances,” Marion Hamm
“On Co-Production,” Klaus Schönberger

17.45–18.15 | “Contentious Collections: Potentials and Challenges for Public Engagement,” Sharon
Macdonald

* * *

**18.30–19.15 | “Heritage and Nations: The Language of Art and the Language of Power,” Angela
Vettese, and exhibition opening by the curator, Suzana Milevska**

EXHIBITION

18 January – 6 February 2019 | POLIMI - Politecnico di Milano

School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering

Galleria del Progetto, via Ampère 2, 20133 Milano

Monday - Friday, h. 10.00 - 18.00

Contentious Objects/Ashamed Subjects is a research about research: it is based on a long-term cross-disciplinary curatorial exploration of art-based research and artistic research projects. Focusing particularly on various methodologies, artistic research methods and strategies that are employed by contemporary artists, the exhibition features those artistic practices dedicated to durational and exhaustive cross-referential investigations of difficult tangible and intangible cultural heritages: reflected in images, objects, spaces, and events that have problematic pasts or inhabit present contentions. In this respect, some of the pertinent questions that triggered the investigation concern which objects, images and spaces are considered contentious cultural heritages (Sharon Macdonald), and how they are transmitted and reflected in the European “culturescapes.”

Contentious Objects/Ashamed Subjects aims to map and critically reflect the state of art in both, the field of artistic research methodologies and in research-based art practices that deal with the shame linked to contentious heritage and its associated traces.

The stereotypical and racialised representations; institutional reluctance to acknowledge the questionable provenience of unlawfully acquired objects and unethical sponsorship; as well as propositions of how to deal with the repressed memory of spaces once inhabited by conflict or are marked with contested monuments dedicated to disgraceful historic figures or events; collective memory about commoning movements that contested the appropriation of public space; are just some of the topics addressed in the projects presented here.

Consisting of selected archival documents and photo, audio and video documentation of academic and artistic research, the featured projects and practitioners focus on various relevant and often sensitive thematic clusters by employing various methodologies and theories, while proposing specific research methods and strategies capable of contending with their selected subjects.

A rich sequence of **activities and pop-up events** will be organised over the entire duration of the exhibition, by Răzvan Anton, Leone Contini, Nora Landkammer and Karin Schneider, Ian McDonald and CoHERE Project, Ian Alan Paul, Karin Reisinger, Elizabeth Sikiaridi and Frans Vogelaar.

Conference webpage:

<http://www.traces.polimi.it/2018/10/02/traces-final-conference/>

Exhibition webpage:

<http://www.traces.polimi.it/2018/10/10/traces-final-exhibition-contentious-objects-ashamed-subjects/>



www.traces.polimi.it | infoTRACES@polimi.it

TRACES Final Conference and Exhibition are promoted by TRACES project, that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon2020 Research and Innovation Programme. The views expressed here are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.