

RESEARCH CONFERENCES

ESF-LiU Conference

Re-Visiting the Contact Zone:
Museums, Theory, Practice

17 – 21 July 2011

Scandic Linköping Väst, Linköping, Sweden

Chaired by:

Sharon Macdonald, University of Manchester, UK



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Conference Highlights

Please provide a brief summary of the conference and its highlights in non-specialist terms (especially for highly technical subjects) for communication and publicity purposes. (ca. 400-500 words)

Revisiting the Contact Zone: Museums, Theory, Practice brought together a lively mix of leading established and highly promising junior scholars, theoreticians and practitioners (and participants who could be regarded as both), from a wide range of countries and disciplines, to explore museums as important spaces of cultural encounter. An influential text by James Clifford that theorizes the museum as a 'contact zone' acted as the starting point for productive debate about the roles of museums in society, the challenges that they face today and their possibilities for the future.

The contact zone idea proposes that museums have the potential to encourage creative and productive forms of inter- and intra-cultural dialogue. Through a wide range of pertinent and often innovative examples and cutting-edge theorizing, this potential and the analytical validity of the contact zone were interrogated. This variously highlighted its salience and limitations for specific cases and also as a more general theoretical and political concept. The conference included presentations on a wide range of countries – even wider than the already considerable number of countries from which participants came. It also included presentations on a wide range of types of museums – including of different subject matters, such as art, anthropology, history, science, medicine and world culture, and also of various status, such as national, metropolitan, regional, local or amateur. To bring together such a wide range was unusual for a conference. It was also vital to enabling productive examination of where the contact zone concept worked relatively well and where it needed refinement or tackling through other theoretical tools.

One important result of the conference was highlighting some major trends in museum developments. This included the considerable ongoing expansion in museum numbers and widespread diversification of them. It also included challenges of migration societies, dealing with cultural and political diversity, devising modes of collaborative working and appropriate forms of expertise. Another important highlight was just how important *specific* museum histories, collections, institutional and wider political frameworks and communities or publics are to the understanding of particular museum situations. It was also made clear how these and are crucial to successful attempts to improve museum practice – and, indeed, to defining what might count as such. Examples of good and bad practice helped to refine understanding of the challenges as well as to identify ways of possibly overcoming them; and a wide range of theoretical concepts and frameworks drawn from various disciplines were proposed to help systematize this as well as to suggest further possibilities for practical development and innovation.

It was clear that the success achieved in this conference could be productively taken forward by holding a future conference in the near future that would seek to test and refine some of the results from *Revisiting the Contact Zone*. Areas identified that deserved particular further attention included attempts to 'decolonize' the museum, the role of objects and various forms of digital applications in relation to knowledge and affect, and the various and possibly changing museum publics.

X I hereby authorize ESF – and the conference partners to use the information contained in the above section on 'Conference Highlights' in their communication on the scheme.

Scientific Report

Executive Summary

(2 pages max)

Revisiting the Contact Zone: Museums, Theory, Practice brought together a lively mix of leading established and highly promising junior scholars, theoreticians and practitioners (and participants who could be regarded as both), from a wide range of countries and disciplines, to explore museums as important spaces of cultural encounter. The conference idea developed from the inaugural debate – *Museums and the Globalization of Culture* – of the London School of Advanced Study in 2009. Following this, a group of the junior scholars who had won a competition to participate in the debate proposed further international discussion of museums' changing roles and contacted one of the keynote speakers at the debate, Professor Sharon Macdonald, who was honoured to agree to act as Chair in an application to the ESF. The conference was from its beginnings, therefore, led by the interests of junior future leaders and this helped to ensure full participation from junior scholars throughout the planning and organization as well as during the conference itself. The following were members of this team: Dr Dominik Collet (Seminar für Mittlere und Neuere Geschichte, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany); Dr Helen Graham (International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies, Newcastle University, UK); Dr Sally Hughes (School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester and Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies, Oxford Brookes University, UK); Jennifer Morgan (Social Anthropology, University of Manchester, UK); Dr Maria Toscano (Museology, University of Naples Federico II, Italy).

An influential text by James Clifford that theorizes the museum as a 'contact zone' acted as the starting point for productive debate about the roles of museums in society, the challenges that they face today and their possibilities for the future. The contact zone idea proposes that museums have the potential to encourage creative and productive forms of inter- and intra-cultural dialogue. Through a wide range of examples and theorizing, this potential and the analytical validity of the contact zone were interrogated. This variously highlighted its salience and limitations for specific cases and also as a more general theoretical and political concept. The conference included presentations on a wide range of countries – even wider than the already considerable number of countries from which participants came. It also included presentations on a wide range of types of museums – including of different subject matters, such as art, anthropology, history, science, medicine and world culture, and also of various status, such as national, metropolitan, regional, local or amateur. To bring together such a wide range was unusual for a conference. It was also vital to enabling productive examination of where the contact zone concept worked relatively well and where it needed refinement or tackling through other theoretical tools.

The conference was highly successful in identifying areas that pose particular challenges for many museums. These included: migration societies; cultural and political diversity; collaborative working; the collections and objects that museums possess; expertise of museum workers; and enabling individual expression. Examples of good and bad practice helped to refine understanding of the challenges as well as to identify ways of overcoming them; and theoretical concepts and frameworks were proposed to help systematize this as well as to suggest further possibilities for practical development.

The conference was also highly successful in making participants aware of the different conditions that may apply in some countries and in relation to particular types of museums, collections or

public engagement initiatives. In addition, it profitably enabled the sharing of theoretical and methodological approaches from its wide range of disciplines; and the showing of how these might variously interact with practice.

It was clear that the success achieved in this conference could be productively taken forward by holding a future conference in the near future that would seek to test and refine some of the results from *Revisiting the Contact Zone*. Areas identified that deserved particular further attention included attempts to 'decolonize' the museum, the role of objects and various forms of digital applications in relation to knowledge and affect, and the various and possibly changing museum publics.

Scientific Content of the Conference

(1 page min.)

- Summary of the conference sessions focusing on the scientific highlights
- Assessment of the results and their potential impact on future research or applications

The conference took James Clifford's essay on museums as contact zones (published in 1997) as its starting point. This essay has been much cited in academic discussion and analysis and also credited as the inspiration for a good deal of innovative museum practice, especially that which seeks to engage those who have traditionally not participated much in museums. While it has been criticized by some in the academy, it has not been subject to extensive examination from a wide range of perspectives. In particular, there had not previously been a major attempt to bring together thorough discussion of its academic/ analytical and also practical/ visionary capacities and potentials. By doing so, this conference was able to provide a more ramifying and rounded interrogation of the contact zone idea as well as to use it as a productive shared point of reference for a more wide-ranging discussion of the nature, roles and potentials of museums in contemporary societies.

Important to the aims of the conference was to bring together those concerned primarily with theorizing museums and those primarily engaged in museum practice. This was very successful and, indeed, many of those who participated had experience of both. As a topic, museums have been researched from a wide range of disciplines and this was reflected in the conference participants. They included anthropologists, architects, historians, literature scholars, political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists, as well as those coming from interdisciplinary fields such as heritage studies and museology. Having a central concept and text – even while it was often interpreted variously – was useful to help maintain a shared dialogue between the disciplines. It was also helpful and illuminating to explore in relation to the very wide geographical range of the case-studies and of the national traditions from which scholars came.

The conference strongly revealed the significance of differences between the situation of museums and museum initiatives in various countries, and in relation to different kinds of museums. For participants, this was often highly illuminating and sometimes surprising. In some cases, it meant that participants needed to rethink the scope of their theoretical propositions as they learned of factors and constraints in other countries or museum contexts of which they were previously unaware. In other cases, it provided stimulating examples of what might be possible in future, which had previously not been contemplated. Allowing for such a rich mixture of geographical spread (even beyond that of the countries from which participants came) and of types of museums was vital to the conference's success. The support of the ESF provided this unusual and highly valuable opportunity.

A summary of some of the main points of discussion during the spoken presentations follows. It should be noted, however, that there were also high quality poster presentations and also many contributions from other participants during discussion, as well as lively debate outside the formal sessions. All of this contributed to the overall sharing of information and perspectives that made this such a successful conference.

The conference was opened by the Chair, who explained the background and aims of the conference and outlined some of the key aspects of the 'contact zone' idea (drawing also on its original formulation by Mary Louise Pratt). This included noting some of possible limitations of the application of the concept and its possible over-extension as well as some of its main strengths and dimensions that have been productive for practice.

Session One: Objects of Knowledge, tackled some of the fundamental issues of objects and knowledge dealt with by museums. In particular each speaker discussed objects not only as one of the fundamental means of the contact zone, but also as an active part of the dialogue between objects, visitors and curators. Chaired by Dr Maria Toscano it began with a keynote lecture by Dr Martha Lourenco, Museum of Science, University of Lisbon, who examined university museums, many of which in the last decades have transformed themselves from collections of forgotten objects into lively examples of the contact zone as a field of intersections of past, present and future, where modern research and history can be represented. This was followed by four presentations dealing with museums and objects in a range of museum contexts. Suiki De Boer, discussed Corporate Art Venues and questions of presentation of private commercial interest through Foucault's concept of 'heterotopia'. Angela Jannelli presented amateur museums – which she referred to as 'wild museums' – as 'contact zones' in which things are considered active agents of meanings, helping to perform the identity and memory of their participants. Emma Poulter and Carl Hogsden gave a joint talk on the possibilities of digital technologies and virtual networks to extend the parameters of contact – in what they preferred to call a 'contact network' – beyond the walls of the museum. Their digital network examples included the 'talking objects' programme at British Museum, and a University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology project, which variously involve communities and students in Australia, Holland and New Zealand; and which raised questions too about protocols of ownership, control and digital reciprocity. Giulia Carabelli continued the discussion of museums and objects as spaces to bring people together through showing how creating and developing a museum for the city of Mostar in Bosnia Herzegovina represents an opportunity to create a space for critical engagement with issues of memory and history outside nationalistic discourses.

Session Two: New Practices, chaired by Dr Sally Hughes, presented examples of innovative approaches to museum work engaging various publics with art and science centred exhibitions and set up the rest of the conference with examples of what might be possible. The keynote address by Dr Ken Arnold, Head of Public Programmes at the Wellcome Collection, London, UK took as his starting point two of Clifford's themes from the essay; that museums should engage in 'active collaboration and a sharing of authority'; and that curators should 'reckon with the fact that the objects and interpretations they display "belong" to others as well as to the museum.' The talk explored how practice in the new type of science and medicine museum (of which the Wellcome Collection is an example – the 'third-generation' of science-medicine museums) is creating opportunities for understanding by bringing together different people and exhibits, perspectives and stories. In the following presentations, further new practices were examined and critiqued in

relation to the contact zone. Diana Almeida's talk demonstrated how personal creative writing by audiences to contemporary art exhibitions enables visitors to engage with and respond to the work on display with the objective of empowering and celebrating every voice. The presentation suggested that the experience of writing provides a series of encounters that recreate identities and meanings and as such represent a form of contact zone. Rana Ozturk's talk viewed new curatorial practice in relation to contemporary art exhibitions, in particular the 11th International Istanbul Biennial. The historical and aesthetical connections demonstrated in the exhibition presented the relationship between art from various world regions within a global entanglement rather than rewriting art history. Yannik Porsché's research combined examination of both curatorial practice and the audience since he examined the production and reception of an exhibition shown in Paris and Berlin. This multi-site case study questioned the discursive levels apparent in the construction of intercultural identities in relation to migration and collective memory and identity constructions in museums. In the final talk of this session on new practice, Nora Sternfeld, elaborated on the theme of memorial when discussing a programme offered to pupils from a high school in Vienna that aims to encourage open talk about difference without reproducing it and which enquired into the role and potential of educational programmes in memorials in the context of post-Nazi migration societies. Overall, the session introduced the conference to a range of new exhibition practices and methods by which to examine them.

Session III: Assembling Culture, chaired by Dr Dominik Collett, revisited the field that gave birth to the 'Contact Zone' concept: The display of 'distant' cultures in a museum context. As the session demonstrated, the discussion on anthropology and its 'object(s)' continues to inform crucial debates of our time that go far beyond their original ethnographical or museological context: How do migration, hybridity and contact change our societies? How do they challenge established hierarchies and dichotomies? How can institutions that have developed in a national framework (such as museums) adapt to this change? The key speaker, Tony Bennett, has engaged with Clifford's concept from the very beginning. His presentation provided an excellent overview of the concepts development and reception as well as possible alternatives. Bennett suggested that museums should be conceptualized as 'exhibitionary complexes' or 'cultural assemblages' rather than 'contact zones' in order to reflect not just on the museums possibilities but also on the limitations and constrictions imposed on the museum by political economy and their historical framework. His presentation opened many welcome possibilities for critical reassessment. Marta Caradonnas' compelling comparison of French and Italian anthropological museums, illustrated that political history, governmental agency and national traditions do indeed influence not just a museums funding but extend to areas such as their use of space, storage, expertise and cooperation. Larissa Foerster then provided a case study that touched upon a major 'contact' issue: repatriation. The debates on the de-accession of Herero skulls from German museums and their eventual return to Namibia go far beyond the museums environment. They make a case for the possibilities of negotiating forms of cultural re-entanglement. Again her presentation demonstrated the complex history that prefigures and shapes contact scenarios in and outside the museum. Serena Iervolino therefore advocated a view of museums as 'sharing spaces' rather than contact zones. Drawing on Gothenburg's 'Museum of World Culture' she strongly suggested that museums need to commit to a clear break with their traditional roles – a break that includes challenging the position of the 'exhibition', the 'curator', and the 'audience'. Friedrich von Bose's presentation on the Berlin Humboldt Forum, however, reminded the audience of the resilience of museum traditions and established collections. The planned rearrangement of Berlin's vast

ethnographical collections into a showcase for encounter and contact, therefore simultaneously highlights the challenges of such enterprises as well as their potential to stimulate crucial societal debates that reflect on the role of self and 'other' and the long history of 'contact'.

At the beginning of the third day, Session IV: The Contact Zone chaired by Jennifer Morgan allowed for a rigorous return to the concept. Key themes originally dealt with by Clifford were engaged with such as the representation of cultural diversity and contemporary identity politics. The presentations usefully returned to the Canadian context in which Clifford was originally writing, as well as providing other examples through which to question what meanings the concept takes on as it is translated to different national sites. Extending this line of investigation, the session began with a keynote lecture by Dr Mary Bouquet who examined 'the interim museum' through the (ongoing) renovation of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. She usefully set out a selection of the main theoretical frameworks that have preceded and drawn on Clifford's concept (e.g. Bennett's 'exhibitionary complex'; Duncan's 'ritual sites'; and Karp and Kratz's 'frictions'). Her talk probed the 'proliferation' and 'diversification' of museums to query whether the global trend of 'mega-renovations' might constitute a 'decentring' of Europe's museums in Clifford's terms. By introducing how different sites are engaging with cultural diversity (e.g. open air museums), the lecture set the scene for the three subsequent presentations which discussed a range of related topics: these included representational practices of multicultural nationalism in Canada, engagement with indigenous Blackfoot communities in Alberta, and meaning-making by global visitors and cosmopolitan space at Te Papa Tongarewa / the Museum of New Zealand. Caitlin Gordon-Walker examined how multicultural nationalism in Canada plays out through the use of multi-sensory exhibition techniques, thus drawing attention to the productive and disruptive potential of affect. Continuing the Canadian context, Bryony Onciul explored indigenous collaboration to highlight the limitations of the notion of 'engagement'. She argued for the need to 'de-colonize' the contact zone through alternative approaches to cultural heritage management, so that the 'engagement zone' might better become a space for community empowerment. Visitor meaning-making was the focus of Philipp Schorch's presentation. Through a long-term narrative study of visitors at Te Papa, he provided an empirically grounded theorizing of the museum as a 'third space' to foreground the productive potential of museums to become reflexive and pluralistic spaces. Lively discussion followed the presentations, and the need to consider how the concept has been used in different national contexts with particular histories was raised.

Session IV: Social inclusion and 'Co-production' in the museum offered the opportunity to examine one of the main areas to which the contact zone idea has been applied in practice and concerned the co-production of exhibitions and various attempts at 'social inclusion'. This session was chaired by Dr Helen Graham. The session began with an 'In conversation' between Professor Anthony Shelton, Director of the Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia and Eithne Nightingale, Head of Diversity at the Victoria and Albert Museum, UK. The session was very well placed within the conference programme as the conversation was able to reflect emerging themes of the previous two days and the morning session. The focus on the interlinking of academic theorizing with museum practice proved very fruitful, with Shelton and Nightingale delineating different influences in terms of co-production (which for Shelton included the same anthropological theorizing which influenced Clifford but for Nightingale included 1970s and 1980s liberation movement politics and UK policy shifts). The other key contribution of this session was to animate what was at stake for practice in the debate between Clifford and Bennett. The four speakers which followed each approached this debate from different perspectives. The

first speaker Natalie Brichet explored a project between Denmark and Ghana called 'the common heritage' project and theorized the awkwardness in these encounters as something which should not be passed over. Instead she drew on anthropological theory to explore ways of telling difference and sameness in ways which do not rely on notions of pre/post colonial difference and allow for commonness which does not erase difference. This was followed by Katarzyna Jagodzinska who explored 'social inclusion' in Poland in the light of an art museum boom and who advocated a 'critical museum' in place of the notion of a universal museum. Bernadette Lynch, formerly Deputy Director of the Museum of Manchester and now an influential UK-based museum advisor presented her research – funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation – on the extent to which the substantial UK investment in 'participation' had influenced museums as a whole. She argued that an 'empowerment- lite' approach was in evidence and used Chantal Mouffe's notion of radical democracy and 'agonism' to explore approaches to museum participation which do not seek consensus. The session was concluded by Mia Muurimaki who also deployed Mouffe's theories of an agonistic museum in the context of contemporary art galleries. Her empirical research with visitors draws on a 'thinking aloud' methodology where she listens to them talk as they explore an exhibit after which she in turn makes available theoretical ideas to visitors for discussion and critique. The discussion which followed ranged from questions of instrumentalism to the role and agency of objects in co-production and the potential of documentation systems to underpin poly-vocal epistemologies.

Session V: Forward Look was chaired by Professor Sharon Macdonald and was begun by a lecture by Professor Luca Basso Peressut (Politecnico di Milano), a museographer and architect. He provided a wide-ranging presentation that identified some of the main areas of museum development and change, while reminding us too of some of the classical aims of museums and of attempts to understand them. His talk stressed the spatial dimensions of the contact zone idea, especially the various ways that this might be instantiated in museum architecture and through various forms of migration. He emphasized the latter as not only about people but also things and knowledge, and introduced his new FP7 research project, which will explore this further.

This was an excellent lead in to the lively Forward Look discussion and its proposition that the results of this conference could be productively taken forward by holding a conference in the near future that would seek to test and refine some of the results from *Revisiting the Contact Zone*. In the Forward Look session, guided by the Chair, there was further discussion of the contact zone concept, some of its strengths and limitations, and possible alternatives. There was no consensus on how far agonistic, assemblage, network or relational perspectives – which had emerged during the conference as some of the most potent possible alternatives – could replace the contact zone for analytical or productive practice purposes. This would require further in-depth examination and could form part of the remit of a future conference – which might potentially be usefully oriented around one or more of these.

Forward Look

(1 page min.)

- *Assessment of the results*
- *Contribution to the future direction of the field – identification of issues in the 5-10 years & timeframe*
- *Identification of emerging topics*

In the Forward Look session it was agreed that the conference had been highly successful. Participants particularly valued the opportunity to hear from those working in different countries and disciplines, in different types of museums and engaged in different kinds of theoretical and/or practical work. This was of direct value to the topic under discussion as the range helped to show where the contact zone idea worked well and where it was more limited. It was also of value in providing a wide range of examples through which to conduct comparative analysis and also to bring alternative possible theoretical formulations and concepts to the table. There was wide agreement that we had been provided with considerable food for thought and that we all had a lot to take away to think further about.

With reference to the contact zone idea, it seemed clear that it had been highly productive and still had potential, especially for some kinds of practical projects. However, there was often need to complexify it, especially when using it for analysis, perhaps by supplementing it with other theoretical perspectives. Other concepts and modes of analysis emerged during the conference as powerful possible supplements or alternatives. The main ones were agonism, assemblage and network. Further exploration of the potential of these will clearly be a main task in the next five to ten years. Which of these will emerge as most productive and in which spheres is as yet unclear, though a further conference would be useful to help to investigate their potential in more depth.

In terms of theory, it was also acknowledged that issues of 'awkwardness' and 'messiness' were important to address. This is likely to require more 'mid-level' theorising.

As the conference highlighted the significance of different national, political and historical contexts, it became clear that further cross-national comparison would be highly valuable to developing better understanding of the changes currently underway in museums. On the one hand, the conference showed many similar concerns in lots of nations – including the challenges of globalization and migration societies. It also showed how there were often shared concerns in museums about matters such as the role of objects, forms of knowledge and expertise and what kinds of approaches might be adopted. On the other, however, it was also clear that there were some very different approaches being taken, sometimes in response to particular situations and histories. For example, the major concerns in post-socialist contexts were often different from elsewhere, not least due to attempts to create new museums and accounts of the past. There were also variations in the situation of national museums, with varying attempts at decolonisation or forms of reassertion of 'European' values through themes of Enlightenment, as well as questions of fundamentalisms. How these competing knowledges, values and forms will play out in the next five to ten years will be vitally important to chart and analyse. So too will the central concerns of this conference with the ways in which museums tackle questions of cultural encounter in migration societies. These issues will not go away and are likely to intensify. Research and theory will be needed to help understand them; and there will be a need to disseminate and further develop effective forms of practice and expertise in museums to address the future challenges.

One area that was noted as deserving particular further attention was developments outside Europe, including those that intersect with it. The conference did include studies of situations beyond Europe – including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States – but future

research would usefully engage with more parts of the world.

Other areas that were identified as important emerging topics included the following:

- The need to know more about audiences and publics – not just those who visit but also wider populations and people brought into the relations of the museum in various ways.
- Staff, expertise, knowledge would be necessary for various kinds of work. Hybrids of academics and practitioners.
- Digital media – more about how the virtual and real can work together facilitate dialogue.
- Status of the object – including but not only in relation to digitization.
- Intangible heritage and its place and consequences in relation to the tangible, and possible hybrids of the two.
- The place of different kinds of technology and experience, for example immersive techniques.
- How these intersect with affect and the need to theorise that more rigorously.
- Questions of renovation and sustainability.

All of these issues deserve further attention and could be productively taken forward by holding a future conference in the near future that would seek to test and refine some of the results from *Revisiting the Contact Zone*. There was widespread enthusiasm for this idea in the Forward Look session and participants were keen to be able to share their papers and ideas following the conference.

Areas identified that deserved particular further attention included attempts to 'decolonize' the museum, the role of objects and various forms of digital applications in relation to knowledge and affect, and the various and possibly changing museum publics. Any forum should include academics, practitioners, museum audience members and stakeholders and the wider public.

▪ Is there a need for a foresight-type initiative?

There is no doubt that this is a highly important area that deserves further research. Museums are important cultural institutions mediating between the global, the national, the local and the individual; as well as between past and present. A foresight initiative to try to chart the changes and challenges underway and to provide some theoretical and practical tools to deal with these would be extremely valuable. A further conference, possibly in two years time, would enable the development of this.

Atmosphere and Infrastructure

▪ *The reaction of the participants to the location and the organization, including networking, and any other relevant comments*

The overall atmosphere was extremely positive. The conference was intense, with six substantial sessions led by a keynote speaker and twenty-three shorter presentations, together with a poster session but momentum was maintained as participants were so engaged with the topic. Debate was very lively both within the time allocated as part of the programme – which included the forward look session – and also beyond it, during breaks and over meals, and sometimes late into the evening. Established academics and practitioners mixed fully with more junior ones outside as well as during the conference sessions, and there was very broad participation in the discussions.

This allowed also for more personalized information sharing and the provision of advice on matters such as publication and careers to more junior participants. A session that ran as a debate between two practitioner-academics and then opened up into a wider conversation provided a successful alternative to the more usual format. For the forward look, chairs were arranged in a circle in order to help facilitate collective discussion and wide input. Presentations were often made engaging through a high level of use of relevant Power-point illustration and film. Posters were also of a very high standard and were available for viewing by conference participants during breaks as well as during the poster session. The fact that all participants were staying in the conference venue, with all necessary facilities available, and that there were few distractions within the area helped to encourage full engagement with the conference; and the ample food available provided sustenance to keep up energy levels! A visit to the Arbets Museum in Norkoping provided a welcome alternative to the conference venue during the middle afternoon of the conference as well as constituting an interesting example of a museum taking an innovative approach relevant to the conference topic.

The fact that there was a team of conference organizers, each of whom organized and chaired a particular session, helped to ensure the efficient running of the conference, making sure that all speakers had dedicated support. That these were primarily junior scholars also helped to set an atmosphere in which junior scholars were not inhibited from full participation in debate. Also crucial to the smooth running of the conference were Alessandra Piccolotto's experienced organizational skills. The provision of emails of all participants will help ensure networking that continues beyond the conference; as will a future conference if this is possible.

Sensitive and Confidential Information

This report will be submitted to the relevant ESF Standing Committees for review.

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Confidential Issues

▪ *Any other issues, not to be included in the published report.*

There were no issues that cannot be included in the published report.

Date & Authors:

August 22, 2011

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