

FIHRM 2020

10TH ANNIVERSARY

Power and Voices Echoes of Empires

14-16 October 2020, International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, UK

CALL FOR PAPERS

We live in a world where we are experiencing worsening levels of discrimination, legacies of colonial rule continue to undermine people's basic rights and there is growing urgency about the consequences of climate change. Museums are increasingly activist and determinedly not neutral. There is growing consensus among museums that their role in society must be active, not passive.

The ethos underpinning FIHRM is that all types of museums, regardless of size or resources, share similar challenges in dealing with these difficult, politically-loaded, and controversial subjects. Since FIHRM's foundation in 2010, one of its fundamental principles has been the importance of international dialogue and the capacity to address and promote human rights issues collectively. Ten years on this resonates more than ever. We believe it's time for museums to step up to the plate.

In this challenging global context, there is one particular issue we want to focus on at our 2020 conference: the dynamic between power and voices. Who holds the power when we share stories? Whose voice is absent, silenced or forgotten? What about voices for those without a material culture? How do museums promote equality and human rights?

We wish to look at the concept of voice in its broadest sense – considering diversity and inclusion of voices in our narratives and relationships, as well as the creative interpretations of voices in addressing difficult issues.

We would like to invite proposals for case studies, provocation, exchange where we explore some of the following topics:

- Human rights agendas including modern slavery, migration and climate change
- Decolonisation, legacies of empire now and in the past
- Social inequality and exclusion

- Community and civic engagement
- Art and Activism
- Working in museums – roles, responsibility, support

Key words: censorship, inequality, social justice, conflict, discrimination, access, mental health, trauma, support, campaigning, democracy, power, returns and repatriation; ethics, digital approaches, action, activism, dialogue, shared narratives, diversity, bias, privilege, intersectionality, well being

Draft Schedule

Tuesday 13 October – International Slavery Museum	
5-8pm	Welcome evening and conference registration Opportunity to visit Merseyside Maritime Museum and International Slavery Museum
Wednesday 14 October International Slavery Museum	
10.00-17.00	Welcome address and headline keynote Theme One - keynote and session Theme Two – keynote and session
6.00-8.00pm	Evening at World Museum Opportunity to visit special exhibition: <i>AI: More than Human</i>
Thursday 15 October International Slavery Museum	
10.00-17.00	Headline keynote Theme Three – keynote and session Theme Four - keynote and session
6.00-9.00pm	Networking party
Friday 16 October International Slavery Museum	
10.00 –13.00	Theme Five - keynote and session
12.30-13.00	Conference conclusion and farewell
14.00-16.00	Optional: Special tours and visits in Liverpool

Call for papers

We welcome proposals for case studies, research papers, workshops and poster sessions under any of the outlined themes. Proposals should be no more than 300 words and in addition you are asked to submit a short biography of 200 words.

Please specify type of session:

- **Case study** – 15-minute case study on a project or area of work within the context of the conference theme. We encourage visual presentations- audio and video material can be used.
- **Panel debate** - session with 3 panellists and a moderator. Panel members deliver a short provocation or case study, followed by a moderated debate with input from the audience. Please provide full outline and key focus of debate. Panels will be 40 minutes max. We look for short provocative panel presentations and active audience involvement. Visual aids are encouraged.
- **Creative workshop**: this provides an opportunity to bring together people to create fresh thinking about an idea or way of working. Workshops will be 1 ½ hours (90 minutes). The aim of the workshop is active engagement in a topic to openly share new ideas and practices in an interactive and innovative way.
- **Poster**: Posters are widely used at conferences to complement oral presentations of papers. A poster is a visual and concise method of presenting one's work. A specific time is allocated in the programme to present your poster and it will be available for viewing throughout the conference. Full specification for posters will be provided.

Points to note

- The conference language is English.
- Conference registration fees are covered for presenters.
- Some sessions may be recorded and presentations will be published on the FIHRM website
- Poster will be photographed and published on FIHRM website.

Bursary Scheme

FIHRM will offer a number of bursaries to cover travel and accommodation for those who would not be able to attend otherwise. Details for the bursary scheme will be published on the website on 31 January 2020.

Deadline and submission: 31 March 2020

Please send your proposal and biography to Françoise McClafferty,
fihrm@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

More information about FIHRM

FIHRM is a network that enables museums which deal with sensitive and controversial subjects such as transatlantic slavery, the Holocaust and human rights to work together and share new thinking and initiatives in a supportive environment. All types of museums, regardless of size or resources, share similar challenges in dealing with difficult, politically-loaded, and controversial subjects.

FIHRM believes that these issues are best confronted collectively rather than individually. The network is about sharing, working together, learning from each other, and encouraging each other; it is also about being active - looking at the ways our museums can challenge contemporary racism, discrimination and other human rights abuses. Today FIHRM has 138 members in 37 countries.

www.fihrm.org.uk

About the conference host

National Museums Liverpool is a group of very different and wide ranging museums and galleries; established more than 150 years ago and brought together in 1986 as a nationally-funded group as a symbol of hope and regeneration and because of the global importance of our collections. It is a group of eight exceptional museums and galleries, sharing important stories from ancient times to today through more than four million objects.

In 2010 National Museums Liverpool coordinated the establishment of a new international museum initiative called the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM). National Museums Liverpool currently hosts the FIHRM website and manages the coordination of the network.

National Museums Liverpool

