

TRACES

Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts From Intervention to Co-production

TRACES deploys an innovative research methodology to analyse the challenges and opportunities raised when transmitting awkward pasts, and to investigate the role played by difficult heritage in reflexive Europeanisation.



Through experimental in-depth artistic/ethnographic research, TRACES focuses on the challenges and opportunities inherent in transmitting contentious cultural heritages in contemporary Europe.

Contentious heritage is often particularly difficult to convey to the public and can impede inclusivity and convivial relations. Nevertheless, if transmitted sensitively, it can contribute to a process of reflexive Europeanisation, in which the European imagination is shaped by self-awareness, on-going critical reflection and dialogue across different positions.

Involving a multi-disciplinary team, which brings together established and emerging scholars, artists and cultural workers, TRACES develops a

rigorous and creative investigation on a range of contentious cultural heritages. To do so, it sets up a series of Creative Co-Productions in which artists, researchers, heritage agencies, and stakeholders work together in longer term engagements, to collaboratively research selected cases of contentious heritage and develop new participatory public interfaces.

These art-based research actions will be supported and complemented by theoretical investigations, analysing and expanding their outcomes.

TRACES main goal is to identify new directions for cultural institutions and museums, aimed at effectively transmit contentious cultural heritage and productively contribute to evolving European identities.

TRACES is structured around five experimental Creative Co-Productions, supported and complemented by theoretical and empirical investigations pertaining to five main research fields:

Artistic Research: Creative Co-Production Beyond Intervention develops and analyses participatory methods and models of innovative contemporary creative collaborations between artists, researchers, heritage agencies, and their stakeholders.

Ethnographic Research on/with Art Production critically examines the collaborative processes between art and research also in relation to challenges posed by the post-colonial legacy of museums' collections.

Research on Education and Stakeholder Involvement investigates learning and exhibiting contentious cultural heritage in Europe, in order to identify ways in which educational settings can provide spaces of conflict and negotiation.

Performing Heritage: Creative Everyday Practices in Popular Culture conducts ethnographic fieldwork into contentious heritages with a focus on intangible heritage. As the theoretical backbone of the project, it evaluates, contextualises and brings together practical and theoretical results from TRACES investigations for public use.

Contentious Collections: Research on Material Culture of Difficult Cultural Heritage undertakes comparative and contextual analysis in order to identify the particular challenges and potential involved in transmitting contentious cultural heritage and to identify new ways of mediating difficult collections.

TRACES Creative Co-Productions

01 | Absence As Heritage Medias, Romania

02 | Awkward Objects Of Genocide Krakow, Poland

03 | Casting Of Death Ljubljana, Slovenia

04 | Dead Images Vienna, Austria and Edinburgh, United Kingdom

05 | Transforming Long Kesh/Maze Prison Belfast, United Kingdom

Project partners

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