



# Challenging Narratives, Fostering Empowerment and Collaborative Practice

European Symposium

20 - 21 June 2024

[Museum of Liverpool](#)

Liverpool, UK

## LIST OF BIOGRAPHIES



Alissandra Cummins, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience's Board Chair and Director of the Museum and Historical Society of Barbados, Barbados

Alissandra Cummins, the Director of the Museum and Historical Society of Barbados, is an internationally recognized author on Caribbean heritage, museology, and art history. She has served variously as: President, the International Council of Museums (2004-2010) and prior to this as Chairperson of ICOM's Advisory Council (1999-2004); Chairperson, UNESCO's Executive Board (2011-2013); Founding President, Museums Association of the Caribbean (1989-1992); Vice President - Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) 1992-1998; Chairperson, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Promotion of Return of Cultural Property to Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (2003-2005). President, UNESCO's International Advisory Board,

Memory of the World Programme (2007-2008); Vice Chair - World Heritage Committee (2008-2011); Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Intangible Heritage (2012-2020). She was recently appointed Board Chair, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (2021-), as well as to the board of UNESCO's newly established International Centre of Documentary Heritage (2020 -). She lectures in Museum and Heritage Studies at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill and has been serving as a Member- Advisory Board, International Network of UNESCO's Slave Route Project.

Ms. Cummins' work has garnered recognition both nationally and internationally, including being awarded a Fellowship of the Museums Association UK (1993), the Barbados Gold Crown of Merit (2005), Royal Order of the Sahametrei of Cambodia (2013). In 2017 she was designated a Member of CAM's Honorary Cowrie Circle, as well as an Honorary Member of ICOM.



**Amina Krvavac, Executive Director, War Childhood Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Amina Krvavac is the Executive Director of the War Childhood Museum and was part of their inaugural research team that engaged in a two-year grassroots campaign that culminated in the Museum's opening in January 2017. Amina believes in museums as spaces for social action and drivers of change, and she is particularly interested in unlocking the potential of museums in transitional justice processes. She is committed to creating exhibitions and workshops that support open and conscious dialogue, and to promoting the idea of museums

as platforms for societal healing and reconciliation. She holds a BA in International Relations from the International University of Sarajevo and an MA in Children's Rights from the University of Geneva. Since 2020, Amina has been a member of the Board of Directors of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Europe – a network of museums, historic sites, and memory initiatives connecting past struggles to today's movement for human rights. Since 2021 she serves as Jury Chair for the European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA).



**Anke Hoffsten, Curator and Deputy Director, Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism, Germany**

Anke Hoffsten is a curator and Deputy Director at the Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism. She holds a PhD in art history and has expertise in strategic and organizational development, exhibition programming and communications.



**Bart Ouvry, Director-General, AfricaMuseum, Belgium**

Bart Ouvry is the Director-General of the AfricaMuseum in Tervuren, Belgium. From September 2019, he served as the Ambassador of the European Union in Bamako, Mali, and before that, from December 2016, as the EU Ambassador in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. In September 2016, he was appointed Inspector of Diplomatic Postings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels, where he also served as Director for Human Rights from September 2014. His previous roles include Ambassador of Belgium to Kenya (May 2011), with concurrent accreditation to Somalia, Eritrea, the

Seychelles, Comoros, and Madagascar, and as Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat. He has held various significant positions such as Principal Spokesperson and Head of the Press Service (September 2008), Consul-General in Geneva and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (August 2004), and Deputy Ambassador in Paris (July 2000). His early career includes roles as Deputy Director for European Integration and Coordination (January 1998), Counselor at the Permanent Mission to the EU (August 1995), Deputy Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna (August 1991), Counselor in the Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Trade (January 1991), and First Secretary at the Embassy in Kuwait (August 1988).



**Brenda Malone, Curator, National Museum of Ireland, Ireland**

Brenda Malone, historian and museum professional, is the Curator of Military History Collections at the National Museum of Ireland. Her areas of interest include the development of the idea of 'nation', and how this is collected and portrayed in National Museums particularly through its historical collections. She has co-curated the major military and history exhibitions at the NMI, including Soldiers and Chiefs and Proclaiming a Republic, and has written and spoken widely about the collections and their meaning at both a national and individual level. She is currently the lead curator on the upcoming exhibition Changing Ireland; Stories from the collection 1900 to 2020. She began developing a new collecting area in the

NMI in 2018 with the theme of Contemporary Ireland, which is becoming the vehicle through which the NMI can collect important material reflecting modern Irish society. She is now beginning work with the NMI team on the proposed museum element at the site of the Sean McDermott Street Magdalene Laundry.



**Donna Rose, PhD Scholar, University College Dublin, National College of Art and Design, and the National Museum of Ireland, Ireland**

Donna Rose is an Irish Research Council-Government of Ireland Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postgraduate scholar based at the National Museum of Ireland, University College Dublin, and National College of Art and Design. Her PhD research focuses on collecting and mediating the material remains of Ireland's religious institutions in cultural heritage contexts and in Survivor-centered ways. These include Magdalene Laundries, Mother and Baby Institutions, and

Industrial and Reformatory Schools. Much of her work to date has focused on researching and working with objects with sensitive histories. In 2022, she completed a research project at the National Gallery of Ireland, which focused on the history of colonial violence and slavery as represented in the provenance of Gallery collections.



**Elisabeth Jolys-Shimells, Head of Collections, Musée National de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, France**

Elisabeth Jolys-Shimells is head curator of heritage, specializing in social museology. Her scientific work focuses on the heritage issues of testimony and the rereading of collections in the light of historiographical and social developments. In particular, her work is reflected in the national "Heritage of Human Migrations" working group, which she set up and has been leading since 2019. Before taking up her current position, she was Director of the Musée Alsacien in Strasbourg and the Alliance Française in Kampala

(Uganda). She has curated the exhibitions Nouvelle Galerie des dons (MNHI, 2019); Olympisme, une histoire du monde (Palais de la Porte Dorée, 2024); Genizah, objets cachés au cœur des synagogues (Musées de Strasbourg, 2016) and the Rémiscences Design.Alsace.Tradition project (Musée Alsacien, 2014).





**Emily Miller, Partnerships Director, Migration Museum, UK**

Emily is Partnerships Director at the Migration Museum. She oversees the museum's national reach and partnerships and leads their Migration Network which brings together organizations from the UK museum, culture and migration sectors to facilitate dialogue and increase confidence about working on migration and intersecting themes together. She has established relationships with other Migration Museums across the world through a Churchill migration travel fellowship and the ongoing work of the International Network of Migration Museums convened by the ICSC. Emily holds an Anthropology degree and Masters in Peace Studies and has experience in working with youth through Seeds of Peace. She has been a trustee for Migrateful since 2019 - a charity

which runs cookery classes taught by refugees and migrants on their journey to integration.



**Erdogan Ayka, Curator, Wereldmuseum Amsterdam, Leiden, and Rotterdam, Netherlands**

Erdogan Ayka is the Curator of Collections, Migration, and the City at the Wereldmuseum Amsterdam, Leiden, and Rotterdam, with a focus on telling new and different narratives of collections through collaboration with diasporic communities and makers. He deals with questions on how migrant communities shape postcolonial European cities and societies and vice versa, thereby focusing on urban materiality and shared heritage. In that vein, Erdogan touches upon connections between the local and the global, and how migration plays a role in this relationship. Erdogan holds a Master degree in Political Science with a specialization in

International Relations from the University of Amsterdam. He is currently finishing his PhD at the University of Groningen (expected in 2024) in which he researched the constitution of Turkey's identity and geopolitical role from a Turkish and European perspective. In that line, he focused on the usage of geography, culture, and history in political discourses. This also entailed discourses towards diasporic communities in Europe and related questions on in-betweenness.



**Gloria Daniel, Founder, Trafficked Enslaved African Corrective Historical (TTEACH) Plaques, UK**

Gloria Daniel is the founder of Transatlantic Trafficked Enslaved African Corrective Historical (TTEACH) Plaques, a project launched in 2020 advocating for permanent markers at sites linked to the trans-Atlantic enslavement of Africans. She is the daughter of Caribbean and Irish immigrants to England and was deeply influenced by her family's history. Her experiences living in New Orleans and New Zealand, regions significantly affected by European and British colonialism, further shaped her perspective.

The last member of her family born into enslavement was her great-great-grandfather, a reminder of the recentness of this history and the ongoing struggle against contemporary racism. Gloria's surname, Daniel, is historically tied to the family that enslaved her great-

great-grandfather John Isaac in Barbados. This family were major players in the slave trade for over 200 years and received compensation for more than 4,424 enslaved people under the Abolition Act of 1833. In 2024, Gloria will see the memorialization of these individuals in Bristol Cathedral, the burial site of over 200 people involved in slavery. She hopes this marks the beginning of “correction and erasure” in Britain.



**Justine Di Mayo, Senior Program Manager, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, France**

Justine Di Mayo is Senior Program Manager at the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), She oversees the ICSC’s activities in Europe/Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa and works with members and their communities to activate heritage to promote human rights, counter divisive historical narratives and foster dialogue. Before joining ICSC, Justine has been working for 10 years on transitional justice initiatives in Lebanon, Syria and more broadly in MENA. As the founder and director of the Lebanese organization Act for the Disappeared, she worked with families of the disappeared and their communities to promote truth and foster peacebuilding. She has developed intergenerational and intercommunity oral history projects, documentation efforts into the

fate of the missing and psychosocial programs for victims including memory initiatives.



**Hope Ama Leslie, Project Coordinator, The Transatlantic Slavery and Legacies in Museums Forum, UK**

Hope Ama Leslie is the Project Coordinator for the Transatlantic Slavery and Legacies in Museums Forum. Hope is the first person to take up this role within a new initiative to connect people across the sector in sharing best practices in handling the legacies of transatlantic slavery. She holds an MA in Race, Education and Decolonial Thought, with special focus on decolonising education and wider cultural and heritage sectors.



**Lisa Anderson, Managing Director, Black Cultural Archives, UK**

Lisa Anderson is a prominent leader in the culture and heritage sector, driven by a deep passion for visual arts and dance. With an academic background in human rights, she strategically employs culture to champion social justice and racial equity. Since 2021, she has held the role of Managing Director at the Black Cultural Archives, a pivotal national institution preserving and championing Black British history. As an independent curator and consultant, she tirelessly advocates for African Diaspora art, especially in the UK. Her recent projects include curating the acclaimed Soulscapes exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery, and she founded @blackbritishart in 2016 to elevate the

visibility of Black British artists. In 2019, Lisa launched her art advisory service, further cementing her influence in the sector. Her contributions to cultural discourse at Bristol and Goldsmiths universities have enriched academic dialogue, while she continues to offer her expertise on the advisory boards of Addis Fine Art and Uchenna Dance.



**Michelle Charters, Director, International Slavery Museum, UK**

Michelle Charters, a Liverpool-born community activist, is the first Black woman to lead National Museum Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. For the past 18 years Michelle was the CEO of Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre in Toxteth, Liverpool. The multi-purpose center was the vision of the Liverpool Black Sisters, an organization formed in the 1970s to address the many forms of discrimination experienced by the Black community in the area. Michelle is the founding chair of the Liverpool then Merseyside Black History Month Group and first Black woman to be appointed a trustee of the Everyman and

Playhouse Theatres in Liverpool. She was also the Chair of the Eric Scott Lynch Slavery Heritage Trail Street plaques initiative in Liverpool. Michelle has been an advocate for National Museums Liverpool since she was first introduced to the Transatlantic Slavery Gallery at the Maritime Museum in 1994. She is a member of the Respect group, which was established in 2008, leading on from the Liverpool Slavery Remembrance Initiative Steering Group, and for the past five years she sat on National Museums Liverpool's board as a trustee, before stepping down to move into her role as the head of the International Slavery Museum.



**Nelson Cummins, Curator, Glasgow Museums, UK**

Nelson Cummins is the Curator of Legacies of Slavery and Empire at Glasgow Museums. In the role he is responsible for exploring how the histories and legacies of transatlantic slavery and the British Empire impact Glasgow Museums and the wider city of Glasgow. Nelson was one of the project leads on Glasgow-City of Empire, a permanent display opened in November 2023 that examines the legacies of colonialism and how they have shaped Glasgow. The display opens up conversations about slavery, exploitation, oppression, resilience, and resistance. Drawing on the collections of Glasgow Life

Museums, the display combines historic and contemporary objects to explore how we can better address the histories and legacies of transatlantic slavery and British colonialism. Previously, Nelson worked as the Community and Campaigns Officer at the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER), where he was responsible for coordinating their work on Black History, including coordinating programming for Black History Month Scotland in 2021 and 2022.





**Patricia Lundy, Sociology Professor, Ulster University, Northern Ireland**

Patricia Lundy is Professor of Sociology at Ulster University. Her work is focused on dealing with the legacy of conflict in divided societies, truth recovery, politics of memory, and redressing historical institutional abuse (HIA). She has researched community-based truth recovery processes, police-led historical conflict-related investigations, and institutional abuse public inquiries. She is committed to bottom-up participatory approaches and a desire to ensure that survivors' justice needs

drive the form of past-focused mechanisms. Patricia was awarded Ulster University's Research Partnership Excellence Award for her collaborative work with Amnesty International and survivors of HIA.



**Philip McDermott, Sociology Senior Lecturer, Ulster University, Northern Ireland**

Dr Philip McDermott is a senior lecturer in sociology at Ulster University. His research is focused on the relationship between the state and the heritage of minority/minoritized groups – especially migrant and linguistic minorities. He is particularly interested in the intersection between social policy and cultural heritage policy as a space for empowerment. Philip was awarded Ulster University's Distinguished Research Fellowship for the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in 2022.

For this civic work, he was awarded a Breaking Barriers award at the 2021 NI Advancing Racial Equality Awards. In 2023, he was elected as a board member of Northwest Migrants Forum, the largest community organization representing migrant communities in the wider northwest region of Northern Ireland.



**Rebecca Laverty, National Museums Northern Ireland**

Rebecca Laverty is a Curator of Modern History, working with the Ulster Museum collection and covering the period from 1500 to present day. She has co-curated several temporary exhibitions including Faces and Places showcasing images by French photographer Bernard Leasing, the A Collector's Story: Tom Hartley exhibition and most recently Drawing Support: Murals, Memory and Identity which is an exhibition of photographs by Bill Rolston. Rebecca is responsible for documenting the NI Prison Service collection and other large collections associated with the Troubles and Beyond initiative.



**Silvia Fernández, Global Networks Program Director, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Spain**

As the Global Networks Program Director, Silvia oversees ICSC-Europe programmatic work, and leads ICSC's work in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa, helping to build the capacity of more than 370 members in 65 countries through trainings and workshops, collaborative projects, cross-regional exchanges, and advocacy campaigns. Silvia is a human rights and social justice activist with extensive experience in project management, global partnerships and capacity-building. Throughout her career she has worked for

and collaborated with a variety of public and private institutions dedicated to a spectrum of human rights work including education, advocacy, and public engagement. She has also organized conferences and workshops on human rights, memorialization, and transitional justice around the globe; and spoken widely in international fora on memorialization and new methodologies for human rights education and social change.



**Tomas Baum, Director, Kazerne Dossin, Belgium**

Tomas Baum is the Director of Kazerne Dossin: Memorial, Museum, and Research Centre on the Holocaust and Human Rights, an institution that integrates commemoration, memory, history, and contemporary significance under one roof. Tomas is particularly interested in examining the conditions under which memory politics function, believing in the power of museums as spaces for social action and drivers of change. He enjoys operating at the intersection of research and politics, translating scientific evidence and advice for decision-making forums and conveying complex issues through various media. From

2006 to 2018, Tomas was the founding director of the Flemish Peace Institute, a parliamentary advisory body based in Brussels. His extensive experience includes assisting organizations in strategic planning, facilitating interactions, chairing deliberations, and curating exhibitions. With a background in philosophy, applied ethics, and international relations, Tomas continues to explore the intersection of ethics and politics, aiding organizations in managing conflicts and polarization.