



Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, Lviv
Summer School 2017
Connecting (to) Histories:
Engaging with the Urban Pasts and Displaying Jewish Heritage

Public History Workshop as a part of the summer school
The Power of Museums: Preserving Heritage, Interpreting Past, Shaping Identity

The 2017 Summer School Workshop will provide students with the opportunity to develop new museum exhibitions and to examine how the cross-cultural history of East Central Europe is informed by museums in the region.

Lviv, a city with a rich multicultural and multiethnic past, formed through the centuries by its Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, Armenian, and German communities, is a perfect setting for exploring this subject. In the aftermath of World War II, Lviv lost its multiethnic character. Today, it is a predominantly Ukrainian city. However, despite all the losses and transformations, Lviv's multicultural past continues to reveal itself in the architecture, culture, and traditions.

Lviv's museums are instrumental in preserving the city's heritage and ensuring a full and honest presentation of the city's past. It has been observed that historical exhibitions attract more visitors when they address complex and controversial issues, and include broad interpretations. The Lviv Museums Workshop participants will have the opportunity to contribute to telling untold stories about Lviv's former communities and their role in the economy and culture of Lviv, as well as of the entire region of Eastern Galicia.

Participants of the workshops are invited to develop the exhibition content with the aim of reflecting inclusive cultural and historical narratives. Students will exercise many of the practical processes involved in creating actual exhibitions, from generating a concept and defining the community needs, to analyzing study cases and presenting prepared projects.

The students will be divided into two separate groups and work on two parallel projects:

- The Lviv Historical Museum
- The Lviv Museum of the History of Religion

Each group will be tasked with the development of a new concept for their respective exhibition and will present their working suggestions upon the completion of the workshop.

LVIV HISTORICAL MUSEUM

<http://www.lhm.lviv.ua/eng/istoriya.html>

Instructor:

Ludmila Gordon, a museum exhibition developer and researcher specializing in cultural and political history, with over twenty years of experience in developing international collections and exhibitions.

Workshop description:

Students will work on the Lviv Historical Museum's exhibition dedicated to the History of Western Ukraine that covers the history of the region from the middle of the 19th Century through the end of the 20th Century and occupies nine galleries of the museum. Through in-person communication with the museum staff and in-class discussions, students will evaluate the existing exhibition and develop a new concept for this exhibition.

Today, many historical museums are struggling to connect with their audiences and often operate under an outdated 20th century model. Meanwhile, with the rise of cities and interest in urban life across the globe, city museums are presented with a great opportunity to thrive alongside social and cultural change. The Workshop will explore various ideas for reinforcing the power of city museums and reinventing the ways of thinking about and presenting history.

Workshop objectives:

1. Students will gain knowledge about the Lviv Historical Museum's "History of Western Ukraine" exhibition and will learn how to evaluate museum exhibitions. Students will communicate with the museum specialists in charge of related collections and gain an overview of museum exhibition practices.
2. Students will exercise critical and independent thinking, while creating a new exhibition's content and will learn how to connect historical facts, objects, and cultural arguments with broader theoretical concepts introduced in reading and discussed in class.
3. Students will experience practical teamwork, while collaborating on the development of new, additional, and alternative concepts for the museum's "History of Western Ukraine" exhibition.
4. The workshop's goal is to encourage an innovative approach and ability to re-visit cultural and historical heritage, to search for ideas and key points that may help create inclusive and multifaceted narratives, and improve the learning experience within the museum space.

Suggested reading:

- To participate in the case studies discussions:

Please read selected articles from *the Journal of Museum Education*, Volume 38, Number 1, March 2013 - special issue dedicated to city museums around the world and the problems these museums are facing and resolving today.

1. Rainey Tisdale. City Museums and Urban Learning. *Journal of Museum Education*, 2013, 38 (1), pp. 3–8.

<http://museumeducation.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/City-Museums-and-Urban-Learning.pdf>

2. Case study: **The Helsinki City Museum**

Jari Harju & Jyri Kokkonen. Looking for New Audiences. *Journal of Museum Education*, 2013, 38:1, pp. 27-38.

provided in PDF file:

[LG_WS_HelsinkiCityMuseum_LookingForNewAudiences_HarjuKokkonen.pdf](#)

3. Case study: **The Historical Museum of Rotterdam**

Paul Th. van de Laar. The Contemporary City as Backbone: Museum Rotterdam Meets the Challenge. *Journal of Museum Education*, 2013, 38:1, pp. 39-49.

provided in PDF file: [LG_WS_RotterdamMuseumMeetsTheChallenge_Laar.pdf](#)

4. John Czaplicka (ed.). Lviv: A City in the Crosscurrents of Culture. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005.

available in the CUHECE library: call #: LVHI.00003.BK

5. Alexander V. Prusin, *Nationalizing a Borderland: War, Ethnicity, and Anti-Jewish Violence in East Galicia, 1914-1920*. University of Alabama Press, 2005.

available in the CUHECE library: call #: JUDC.00910.BK

LVIV MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF RELIGION

<http://www.museum.lviv.ua/>

Instructor:

Vadim Altskan, a historian specializing in East European, Balkan, and Jewish history, currently serving as the Project Director for the International Archival Programs at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Workshop description:

Participants of this Workshop will develop a concept for a new thematic exhibition at the Lviv Museum of the History of Religion, which could be installed in the near future in the Museum's exhibit space located in the historic center of Lviv on Staroevreys'ka Street. Given the historical background of this street as a key intersection of several ethnic communities, this Museum's

space could serve as a designated area for exhibitions dedicated to the multicultural and multiethnic history of Lviv. The main focus of the workshop will be history of the Jewish community in Lviv and its role in the socioeconomic and cultural development of the city and its surroundings.

Workshop objectives:

1. Students will evaluate selected collections of the Lviv Museum of the History of Religion that could be used for the exhibition on Staroevreys'ka Street.
2. Students will have the opportunity to study relevant archival collections (various types of historical records, film footage, maps, photos) in the State Archives of the Lviv Region and Central State Historical Archives in Lviv, and meet with the staff archivists to discuss which documents could be useful for the Museum's future exhibition.
3. Throughout the preliminary research and discussions in class, students will propose their own ideas for the best use of the Museum's space on Staroevreys'ka Street and provide practical suggestions for the development of the exhibition.
4. Working as a team, students will draft several proposals outlining themes for future exhibitions. They will compile a preliminary inventory list of various collections that could be used for these exhibits.
5. The goal of the workshop is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the research process involved in developing the content of historical exhibitions, as well as to formulate independent ideas and translate them into specific plans and practical models.

Suggested reading:

1. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. Inside the Museum: Curating between hope and despair: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, *East European Jewish Affairs*, 2015, 45: 2-3, pp. 215-251.

[provided in PDF file: VA_WS_InsideMuseum_CuratingBetweenHope&Despair_POLIN.pdf](#)

2. Ktaline Deme. From Restored Past to Unsettled Present: New Challenges for Jewish Museum in east Central Europe, *East European Jewish Affairs*, 2015, 45: 2-3, pp. 252-260.

[provided in PDF file: VA_WS_FromRestoredPastToUnsettledPresent_Deme.pdf](#)

The workshop will include several stages:

1. During the first week, the participants are going to take a theory oriented course by Ludmyla Gordon and Vadym Altskan "The Power of Museums: Preserving Heritage, Interpreting Past, Shaping Identity" and a series of lectures and discussions to serve as a history introduction into the subject of Jewish cultural heritage, collecting, and

development of museums as institutions in Lviv, as well as on current challenges and prospects of Lviv museums and memory spaces in understanding and presenting a multicultural history of the city. The guest lecturers and discussants will be Dr. Serhiy Kravtsov (Jewish University, Jerusalem), Dr. Sofiya Dyak (Center for Urban History, Lviv), Zenoviy Mazuryk, vice-president of the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Council of Museums ICOM, a member of the board of the All-Ukrainian Association of Museums.

2. In the second week, the groups will be getting acquainted with the museums they will be working in. They will have guided tours and meetings with the museum staff, and start working on their own projects.
3. In the middle of the third week, the participants will be presenting their draft projects to be discussed by the lectures of the school, by the guest experts and the museums staff.
4. On the last day of the school, the participants will be presenting their projects for the museums staff and the guest experts. The results of the group work (Power Point Presentations) will be published on the website of the Center for Urban History.