Connecting (to) Histories: Engaging with the Urban Pasts and Displaying Jewish Heritage

8th Summer School
July 10 – August 4, 2017

DR. SERGEY KRAVTOV, DR. SOFIA DYAK, ZENOVY MAZURYK

SYLLABUS

"SITES OF THE PAST IN LVIV": COLLECTING, DISPLAYING, RETHINKING THE PAST

LVIV 2017
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe
“Connecting (to) Histories: Engaging with the Urban Pasts and Displaying Jewish Heritage”
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Dr. Sergey Kravtsov
Center for Jewish Art, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Zenoviy Mazuryk
a vice-president of the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)

Dr. Sofia Dyak
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

"Sites of the Past in Lviv": Collecting, Displaying, Rethinking the Past

This short course is an introduction to the workshop «Museum Space at Urban Pace: Revisiting Lviv's Multicultural Heritage». It aims to discuss the different contexts of the shaping and development of collecting, museums and public spaces and places for displaying and representing the city's multicultural heritage in Lviv in the 19th and 20th centuries. Three lectures by Dr. Sergey Kravtsov, dedicated to the history of Jewish and non-Jewish collections in Lviv under the Habsburg rule and in the Second Polish Republic, show the intentions of diverse individual and group collectors, the transition of collected artifacts from religious sphere to the secular public space, from a traditional group to the modernizing urban public. The lectures will expose collections as tools for preserving cultural heritage, for constructing the collectors' selves, for shaping national and political narratives, for developing art history as a discipline, and for mutual understanding of cultural elites.

Zenoviy Mazuryk will focus on museums and their functions after the Second World War, especially on the changing museum landscape of Lviv, the redistribution of collections and roles of museums as an ideological tool of the state. The second part of the lecture will deal with the current state, challenges and prospects which today's Ukrainian museums are facing. What are memorial spaces? Do they have other functions than museums do? What do they speak about, and how do they combine elements of exhibition, museums, memory and public space? These issues will be discussed by Dr. Sofia Dyak as based on the recently implemented project "Space of Synagogues" in Lviv.

I Dr. Sergey Kravtsov
Center for Jewish Art, Hebrew University of Jerusalem


Why Jewish art interested Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish scholars? By whom and what for Jewish artifacts were initially collected? By which social patterns the Jewish individual collection was inspired? How private collections became public? What was the role of Maksymilian Goldstein in collecting Judaica and what happened to him and his collection?
Literature:

Further reading:
Maksymilian Goldsteing and Karol Dresdner, Kultura i sztuka ludu żydowskiego na ziemiach polskich: Zbiory Maksymiliana Goldseina, with preface by Majer Balaban (Lviv, 1935).


How the idea of Jewish Museum in Lviv became a communal project? Who and how has brought the Museum into being? Which audience did it serve? Which non-Jewish institutions were also collecting Jewish cultural assets in the interwar period? What happened to those objects and those actors?

Literature:
3. Ludwik Lille, Muzeum Żydowskiej gminy wyznaniowej (Lviv, 1937).

Further reading:
Zofia Ameisenowa, Bestiarius w Biblii hebrajskiej z XIII wieku: Studium ikonograficzne (Warsaw, 1933).

3. Collecting Art in Lviv before 1939.

What were the major collections of the prewar Lviv? How the ecclesial, aristocratic, and patrician collections became public and national assets? How did Polish, Ukrainian, and Armenian communities collect, preserve and expose their movable monuments? How this activity served the particular communities and general public? What was the role of these collections in urban society?

Literature:
II Zenoviy Mazuryk
a vice-president of the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)


How was Lviv’s museum landscape shaped after the WWII? What transformations did museum collections experience? What social and political conditions affected the activities of museums? What changes occurred in museum policies? What organizing and legal forms of museum activities have appeared lately? How have museum activities changed?
The lecture is devoted to changes in museum policies in Ukraine and especially in Lviv during the Soviet period and the Independence. It discovers the objectives of museums, landmarks in museum policies and changes which have occurred over the recent decades. The focus will be on challenges faced by museums in Ukraine since gaining the Independence and on conditions of implementing modern standards of museum activities.

Literature:
5. Zenoviy Mazuryk. Музеї – наша пам’ять [Zenoviy Mazuryk. Museums are our memory]
6. Zenoviy Mazuryk. Туризм як виклик для музеїв [Zenoviy Mazuryk. Tourism as a challenge for museums]

III. Dr. Sofia Dyak
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

5. Outside yet Connected? Rethinking Memorial Space as an Exhibition Site in Urban Setting

This lecture will take recently opened The Space of Synagogues project in Lviv as a point of departure to discuss two topics: How memorial and public space can be conceived and realized as exhibition site? What are the ways of creating connections and communicating references between memorial space, urban setting, and various audiences? Memorials, especially in dense urban environments, are increasingly conceptualized and developed as complex sites that accommodate and enable different audiences to find their own experiences. Looking at this case we will explore if and how to define what is inside and outside, what are the boundaries and blurred lines between exhibitions, museums, memorial, and public spaces and how to see memorial spaces as a part of complex network of other sites and institutions that engage with or represent the urban past.

Literature:
Selected press materials on The Space of Synagogues project
Notes from participant observation at The Space of Synagogues in September 2016 and results of participant observation planned for May 2017.