

Detailed information on admission to doctoral program within the project: „Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe (CHAPTER): The Role of Museums in a Digital 'Post-Truth' European Society” (Volkswagen Stiftung)

Institutions: Faculty of Polish Studies, and the Doctoral School in the Humanities, Jagiellonian University

Position: PhD student-researcher in the project „**Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe...**” and PhD candidate in the Doctoral School in the Humanities, Jagiellonian University

Task description:

Researcher/PhD scholar will take part in the international project “Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe: The Role of Museums in a Digital ‘Post-Truth’ European Society (CHAPTER)”, funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung. CHAPTER brings together heritage studies, museum, memory and cultural studies and cultural anthropology. The project aims to develop approaches and best practice examples to support museums in challenging the growing influence of populist discourse in Europe through digital innovation. The project is a collaboration of researchers in Berlin (project leaders: Christoph Bareither and Sharon Macdonald; CARMAH – Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage, Humboldt University, Berlin), London (Haidy Geismar, Dept. of Anthropology, Faculty of Sociology and Historical Sciences, Univeristy College London) and Krakow (Roma Sendyka, Ośrodek Badań nad Kulturami Pamięci, Wydział Polonistyki, Uniwersytet Jagielloński) and museums in the respective regions, supported through a review board with members from other European countries.

The research will entail the following tasks:

- 1) interview-based study with museum practitioners and stakeholders, in-depth ethnographic work around the museum experiences of young people • working in an international team on the research findings and collaborating with a digital design company to develop and implement a digital museum app • participation in workshops and conferences organized by CHAPTER teams • organizational help (facilitation of workshops, field research, etc.) • collaboration in the process of implementation of research results
- 2) Fulfilling all the requirements of the Doctoral School in the Humanities curriculum and receiving academic qualification (doctorate) within the course of four years.

Due to the extensive engagement in the project research it is strongly suggested that the PhD dissertation should draw upon CHAPTER research.

Hiring conditions: monthly stipend of 3 000 PLN (brutto). Within the research funding the successful candidate can use funds for CHAPTER research, visiting partnering institutions (UCL, HU), taking part in conferences and workshops.

Position opening: July 31, 2020

Start date: October 1, 2020

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„Challenging Populist Truth-Making in Europe (CHAPTER): The Role of Museums in a Digital 'Post-Truth' European Society”

In the first phase, the project team will study the impact of populist truth-making on museums and their visitors in Germany, the UK and Poland, bringing together an explorative interview study with in-depth ethnographic research within museums' physical and digital spaces. Here the research interest focusses on the affective dimension of populist debates, asking how “post-truth” and “fake news” constitute practices of “emotional truth-making” that affect museums both explicitly or implicitly. While the researchers will focus mainly on the perspective of museum professionals and stakeholders in the first year, they will conduct ethnographic visitor research in the second, asking for how visitors experience the “affective contact zones” of museums in relation to post-truth practices and emotional truth-making. In the second phase, starting in year three, the project will build upon the research findings in order to develop and implement a museum app (for smartphones and tablets) in cooperation with our project partner Fluxguide (Vienna) and three partner museums in Germany, Poland and the UK. The purpose of this app is to challenge young visitors (18-21 years) to critically engage in practices of populist truth-making. Our goal is not only to co-develop and implement this app, but to accompany, analyze and evaluate its use in order to gain critical knowledge about the potential of digital media in museum contexts on a much broader level. Thus, the key aim of the project is to bring together ethnographic research and digital innovation in order to develop best practices that will support museums and other cultural institutions to challenge populist debates and to foster a democratic public discourse within Europe.

See more on: <http://www.carmah.berlin/chapter>