

Explorative Research Network: The Everyday Life of Urban Monuments

Monumental Biographies and Methodological Approaches

Workshop at Stockholm University and Public Art Agency Sweden, September 23rd and 24th

23 September

Location: Stockholm University, Frescativägen 24E, Library (room 300), house A, floor 3. Enter from Frescativägen 24E (at the front of the building). Elevator via Frescativägen 24 F. Take the stair lift to the first floor and change to the elevator to the third floor.

9:45 Arrival, tea and coffee

10:00 Welcome, practical details & short round of presentation.

10:30 Guest Lecture: Magnus Rodell: *Shifting memories: The (After-)Life of the Charles XII-Statue*

Magnus Rodell is Associate Professor in History of Ideas at Södertörn University. He has published widely on nationalism, national identity, monuments, commemorations, cultural memory, material culture, and place. Currently, he is finishing a book about monuments, media and cultural memory in Interwar Sweden.

- Q&A. Discussion on what we mean by “monument biographies” and methodological and empirical potential of a biographical approach in the study of urban monuments

11:40 Walk, talk and eat - (Lunch at Gamla Orangeriet, Bergianska)

14:00 Tanja Schult: *How can we study the everyday reception and impact of monuments and the spaces they occupy? Methodological Reflections.*

Short Q&A followed by discussion and 5-minutes-presentations of other methods/approaches

Please read in advance:

[“Say it with a Flower? POLIN’s Daffodils Campaign” \(2024\)](#)

[“Rewind, Relisten, Rethink: The Value of Audience Reception for Grasping Art’s Efficacy” \(2022\)](#)

15:30 FIKA with One-to-One-brainstorming: networkmembers discuss their possible inputs and outcomes to the project in pairs followed by short presentation for the whole group.

16:30 EXCURSION I

Kungsträdgården & Karl XII (Magnus).

Monuments on and around Raoul Wallenberg torg (Tanja).

19:00 Dinner for invited guest and network members

24 September

9:30 EXCURSION II

Start from Djurgårdsbron (Tram, Bus).

From Djurgårdsstråket – Sthlm’s “National Mall” to Lea Porsager’s *Gravitational Ripples*. If we have time, we take the bus to Mirosław Bałka’s Estonia Monument, and then the ferry over to Skeppsholmen.

Bring comfortable shoes and a SL card.

13:00 LUNCH at Café BLOM at Skeppsholmen

14:30-19:00 **Seminar at Statens Konstråd/ Public Art Agency Sweden**, Båtsmanskasernen, Svensksundsvägen 11A on Skeppsholmen

14:30 Annika Enkvist, Program Manager: Welcome and presentation of the work done by Statens Konstråd

16:00 Visit in the exhibition *Det ska växa – textila uttryck som offentlig konst*

17:00-19:00 Public Lectures

Tim Cole: *Who decides what to do with a contested monument? Engaging the City in a Conversation about the Statue of Edward Colston*

After the toppling of the Colston statue in Bristol in June 2020, the Mayor set up a History Commission to engage the city in a conversation about the future of this contested monument as well as the wider history of Bristol. The Commission – which Tim chaired – co-produced a temporary display of the statue with curators of the city’s social history M-Shed Museum and undertook a survey with visitors and people across the city. Around 14,000 responded and their thoughts informed the proposals for what to do next with the statue, as it enters the permanent exhibition of the city’s museum. Throughout, the Commission sought to pay as much attention to process as the final outcome – seeing value in the process of engaging a city in a conversation about its past, present and future.

Annemarie de Wildt: *The Complexities of Curating and Commissioning Art in Public Space – The Role of Stadscuratorium Amsterdam*

Since 2019 Stadscuratorium Amsterdam (<https://stadscuratorium.nl/en/>) provides Amsterdam’s municipal executive with solicited and unsolicited advice on art in the public space. Collectively, its nine members cover a wide range of knowledge, from art and spatial planning to the management of works of art in the public space. Together, they form a network of expertise that constantly questions the meaning and definition of art in the public domain.

Moderator: Fanny Söderbäck, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Södertörns högskola

About the speakers:

Tim Cole is Professor of Social History at the University of Bristol and was Chair of the 'We are Bristol' History Commission (2020-2023). He has published widely on the social, cultural, environmental and landscape history of contemporary Europe, with a particular interest in the Holocaust and its representation. Tim also has interests in applying digital humanities research methods to Holocaust studies. He is currently working with Tanja Schult (Stockholm) on a project on the role of monuments in contemporary democracies.

Annemarie de Wildt is a historian and emeritus curator of the Amsterdam Museum. She is committed to connecting the history and current affairs of Amsterdam, with a multivocal approach to history. She curated over 50 exhibitions and published many books and articles on Amsterdam's (contested) histories, including migration, prostitution, colonialism, and graffiti. Annemarie de Wildt is a member of Stadscuratorium Amsterdam, of the Amsterdam committee on street names and vice-chair of CAMOC, the city museum committee of the International Council of Museums.

19:00 Dinner for network members and invited guests