***Memorialization processes in divided and post-conflict societies: memorials and museums***

**Seminar organized by the United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed, in cooperation with the Research team PIMPA (Memory Politics and Art Practices), CCC Research-Based MA Programme of Haute école d'art et de design – Geneva (HEAD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**7 and 8 October 2013**

**Draft Agenda**

**1. Objectives of the seminar**

For the years 2013/2014, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights undertook a thematic research relating to the issue of historical and memorial narratives in divided societies. A first report on the writing and teaching of history, with a specific focus on history textbooks, will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly on 24 October 2013 (report soon available). The Special Rapporteur is currently working on a second report, devoted to memorials and museums, in particular history museums. That second report will be considered by the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2014.

The seminar is designed to inform this second report of the Special Rapporteur, and to discuss practical and theoretical expertise and recommendations of artists, curators and other experts, which will be coming from different parts of the world. The workshop will be restricted to invited participants only.

This seminar will complement another meeting held in Derry/Londonderry (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom) on 1, 2 and 3 July 2013, which took a wider perspective and addressed the issue of cultural rights in divided and post-conflict societies.

**2. Format**

The seminar will take the form of a private meeting of approximately 20 high level local and international experts in the field of cultural rights, artists and curators.

For each segment of discussion, 3 or 4 experts will make a presentation of about 15 minutes of their work and perspective, taking into consideration the issues proposed for discussion. This will be followed by a discussion between all participants.

The last segment will be devoted to discussing possible conclusions and recommendations to be included in the report of the Special Rapporteur, based on a draft submitted in advance. Participating experts will also be invited to share their ideas on possible follow-up that could be given to the Special Rapporteur’s report, as well as to the seminar.

**3. Venue**

CCC Research-Based Master Programme  
Critical Cross-Cultural Cybermedia  
9, boulevard Helvétique, 1205 Genève  
T +41 (0) 22 388 58 81  
F +41 (0) 22 388 58 61  
<http://head.hesge.ch/ccc>**4. Agenda**

**7 October**

**9:00 – 10:00:**

* Welcoming remarks by Mr. Pierre Hazan, Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD)
* Introductory remarks by Ms. Farida Shaheed and short presentation of all participating experts (tour de table)

**SESSION I.**

**10:00 – 13:00: Memorialization processes in the public space**

*Moderator: Ms. Farida Shaheed*

*Introductory presentations (15 minutes each) by:*

* Ms. Milica Tomic
* Mr. Fernando Sanchez Castillo
* Ms. Ereshnee Naidu
* Ms. Patricia Tappata de Valdez (TBC)

*Issues to be discussed include:*

* The role of the State
* The place / role given to the public, the various communities, and the victims.
* The place / role given to the artists
* Which public space are we talking about?

**13:00 – 14:30. Lunch**

**SESSION II.**

**14:30 – 17:30: The role of museums, in particular history museums**

*Moderator: Ms. Farida Shaheed*

*Introductory presentations (15 minutes each) by:*

* Mr. Tomislav Sola
* Ms. Puawai Cairns
* Mr. Martin Schärer
* Mr. Dominique Poulot

*Issues to be discussed include:*

* History museums or memory museums or both?
* Specific narrative or encompassing narratives? In particular, how do museums, in particular history museums, ensure that the public is aware of the existence of a variety of narratives on specific events?
* Relationships with communities and victims
* Academic freedom of historians and freedom of curators to present a narrative.

**18:30 – 20:30**. Public lecture at the HEAD, by Ms. Farida Shaheed and Ms. Milica Tomic.

**8 October**

**SESSION III.**

**9:00 – 13:00: Assessing critically memorialization policies**

*Moderator: Mr. Pierre Hazan*

*Introductory presentations (15 minutes each) by:*

* Mr. Paul Williams
* Ms. Natalia Petrova
* Mr. Victor Ochen

*Issues to be discussed include:*

* Issue of temporality: when and how long shall we commemorate?
* Under memorialization or over memorialization processes or both?
* Power politics and memory politics
* Who are the memory “entrepreneurs”, who commissions memorials and who pays for their establishment?

**SESSION VI.**

**14:30 – 17:30: Discussions over possible conclusions and recommendations, as well as possible follow-up**

*Moderator: Ms. Farida Shaheed*