Publics of the First Public Museums (18th and 19th Centuries).

II. Literary Discourses

International Workshop

Durham
23–24 May
2024
II. Literary Discourses

The workshop *Publics of the First Public Museums (18th and 19th Centuries). II. Literary Discourses* is an integral part of the research project *Visibility Reclaimed. Experiencing Rome’s First Public Museums (1733-1870). An Analysis of Public Audiences in a Transnational Perspective*. Marking the second of three encounters, this workshop delves into the examination of literary discourses vital to understanding the experiences of early museum-goers. Travel literature has long represented a privileged source for investigating the origins of the first public museums and the practices of access to public and private collections in Europe. However, in the light of recent studies aimed at deepening the material history of the museum and the encounter of the public with the institutions, these sources deserve a closer scrutiny in both methodological and critical terms. Following the inaugural Rome session that focused on institutional sources, the Durham workshop turns its gaze towards the rich literary narratives with the aim of analysing them also in a comparative perspective with the primary sources. As museums sought to define and engage their public, literature often became both a mirror and a mould, reflecting and shaping societal perceptions. With a spotlight on interdisciplinary and transnational approaches, the Durham workshop calls for a deeper probe into the visual and material realms of museums, emphasizing the interplay between literary discourses and artworks, collections, display, space, audiences “narrated” in the museum and the evolving institutional norms of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

On the cover:
Camille Cabaillot-Lassalle, *Le Salon de 1874*, 1874, Paris, Musée d’Orsay

Mariano Vasi, *Itinerario Istruttivo di Roma antica e Moderna*, Roma 1791
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ita MacCarthy (Durham University, Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Director)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>I. Methodological Reflections</td>
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<td>This session serves as an introduction to the workshop, providing a shared reflection on the current state of research and the future prospects. It will focus on the comparative, interdisciplinary, and intermedial analysis of literatures within the field of Museum Studies. Chair: Christoph Frank (Università della Svizzera italiana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45</td>
<td>Letterature e pubblici del Museo: fonti o modelli?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stefano Cracolici (Durham University)</td>
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<td>Musei d'Arcadia</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>“Tutta l'arte del buon governo trastullando imparare in un passeggio”: A Literary Rearrangement of the Duke of Savoy’s Great Gallery</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>“I Romani non frequentano le gallerie di Roma”: discussioni e stereotipi sui visitatori dei musei di Roma nella stampa di secondo Ottocento</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Pubblici dei musei a Roma nelle guide dell’Ottocento</td>
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<td>11:35</td>
<td>Viaggio in Abruzzo: Vincenzo Bindi e I Monumenti storici ed artistici degli Abruzzi</td>
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**Thursday 23 May 2024**

**Seminar Room, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Title/Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-12:30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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| 12:30    | **Keynote Address**      | Chair: Carla Mazzarelli (Università della Svizzera italiana)  
Carole Paul (University of California, Santa Barbara)  
*The Museum Going Public in Eighteenth-Century Italy*|
| 13:00    | Discussion               |                                                  |
| 14:15    | **III. Museums on the Beaten Track** | Chair: Mauro Vincenzo Fontana (Università Roma Tre)  
Rosa Maria Giusto (Napoli, CNR)  
*La “città-museo” e i resoconti dei viaggiatori: le Notizie di Roma scritte dal Sig.re Aless.o Galilei*  
Luca Piccoli (Università della Svizzera italiana)  
*Reise nach Italien dell’architetto Simon-Louis Du Ry: resoconti pubblici e privati sui musei in Italia a confronto*  
Ludovica Scalzo (Università Roma Tre)  
*“The torch, like Promethean fire, makes every statue live”: visite a lume di fiaccola nei musei romani dai resoconti di viaggio della prima metà dell’Ottocento*|
| 15:15-15:30 | Discussion               |                                                  |
| 15:45    | **IV. Varieties of Sightseeing** | Chair: David García Cueto (Museo Nacional del Prado)  
Daniel Crespo-Delgado (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)  
*Los monumentos y las colecciones de arte en la literatura de viajes española (y por España) de la Ilustración*|
16:05 Victoria Arzhaeva (EPHE-PSL, laboratoire Histara)
*Les pensionnaires russes au Vatican: l’expérience muséale à travers la correspondance artistique et les journaux intimes du XIXe siècle*

16:25 Michele Amedei (Università di Pisa)
“The Studio was a monument of his intelligent taste and aesthetic culture”: l’atelier dell’artista nei resoconti e diari di viaggio di visitatori nordamericani nella Toscana dell’Ottocento

16:45-17:00 Discussion

17:00 **Keynote Address**
Chair: Stefano Cracolici (Durham University)

Christoph Frank (Università della Svizzera italiana)
*In the Shadow of the Americas: The Humboldts and Schinkel in the Rome of the Early 1800s*

17:30 Discussion

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*Plan of the Roman Forum in Mariana Starke, Travels in Europe between the years 1824 and 1828, London 1828, p.149*
V. Literary Landscapes

This session aims to reflect on how literature provides a multifaceted view of the museum experience, extending the analysis to landscape traversal. It will consider the poetic charm of narrative evocations that capture the emotions of a setting and the ekphrastic descriptions that articulate artworks in written words.

Chair: Ita MacCarthy (Durham University)

9:00  Cecilia Paolini (Università di Teramo)
      Il Controcanotto di Clio: George Sand e l’inascoltata interpretazione del paesaggio italiano tra spazio barocco e romanticismo progressista

9:20  Elizaveta Antashyan (Sapienza Università di Roma)
      “A Walk through the Hermitage”: Russia’s First Public Museum and its Reflections in Literature during the reign of Alexander II (1855–1881)

9:40-10:00  Discussion

VI. Museum Tales

This session is dedicated to literary texts that transform museum visits into narratives. It explores how notions of time and space during such visits compare with the temporal dynamics of literary narration and how the perception of the visited places differs from travel accounts.

Chair: Sara Garau (Università della Svizzera italiana)

10:00  Lucia Rossi (Università della Svizzera italiana)
      Il “Museo di Roma” tra esperienza, ricordo e costruzione narrativa: I Miei Ricordi e le Lettere di Massimo d’Azeglio

10:20  Meghan Freeman (Yale University)
      The Intimacies of Art Travel in Henry James

10:40  Corinne Pontillo (Università di Catania)
      “S’arrestò davanti alla Gioconda”: visitare il Museo del Louvre attraverso la letteratura

11:00-11:15  Discussion
VII. Sensory Visits

This session explores how the concept of the museum as a space to "read" differs from its traditional perception as a space to "visit." It will examine, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the implications of this distinction in literary and museological discourses, with a special focus on the sensory dimension of navigating through texts and the museum.

Chair: Marco Maggi (Università della Svizzera italiana)

11:30
Isabelle Pichet (UQTR, Trois Rivières) and Dorit Kluge (VICTORIA | International University, Berlin)
*Experiencing 18th century art exhibitions in Paris and Dresden—a sensory interplay between exhibition and text*

11:50
Sofia Bollini (Università Luigi Vanvitelli, Napoli / Università della Svizzera Italiana)
*Il preparato anatomico come oggetto museale e letterario nella cultura tardottocentesca*

12:10
Laura Stefanescu (Villa I Tatti, Harvard University)
*Vernon Lee’s Gallery Diaries: An Aesthetic Bodily Experience of Italian Museums in the Early Twentieth Century*

Discussion and Conclusion

*Le Musée du Vatican. An extract from the French newspaper L'Autorité, 1891.*
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Durham, 23-24 May 2024

Organised by
- Stefano Cracolici
  Durham University
- Carla Mazzarelli
  Università della Svizzera italiana

The Workshop is part of Research Project Visibility Reclaimed. Experiencing Rome’s First Public Museums (1733-1870). An Analysis of Public Audiences in a Transnational Perspective (SNSF 100016_212922)

Organising Secretary
- Gaetano Cascino
  Università della Svizzera italiana
- Lucia Rossi
  Università della Svizzera italiana

Information and streaming on request
- visibilityreclaimed@gmail.com

Venue of the workshop
- Durham
  Durham University
  Seminar Room, Institute of Advanced Study
  Cosin’s Hall | Palace Green | Durham | DH1 3RL
  0044 (0) 191 334 4686

Principal investigator
- Carla Mazzarelli
  Università della Svizzera italiana,
  Accademia di architettura di Mendrisio, Istituto di storia e teoria dell’arte e dell’architettura

Project Partners
- Giovanna Capitelli
  Università Roma Tre
- Stefano Cracolici
  Durham University
- David García Cueto
  Museo del Prado
- Christoph Frank
  Università della Svizzera Italiana
- Daniela Mondini
  Università della Svizzera Italiana
- Chiara Piva
  Sapienza Università di Roma

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