



**DEPARTMENT OF MUSEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA**

organizes

A TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON

“SHARED HERITAGE: CO-CURATION WITH SOURCE COMMUNITIES”

on

24TH - 25TH MARCH 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Heritage – both tangible and intangible has increasingly been acknowledged as a shared cultural resource rather than a proprietorship. Traditional heritage practices often placed communities as passive subjects of representation. Contemporary discourse, however, highlights co-curation, in which source communities keenly take part in the interpretation, preservation, and presentation of their cultural heritage. According to the ICOMOS 2020 theme for the International Day for Monuments and Sites, ‘Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility’ reveals the global context of heritage as part of cultural individuality during a time of migration, conflict, and environmental uncertainty.

In India, with its enormous cultural diversity, indigenous knowledge systems, living traditions, and community-owned heritage, co-curation offers a transformative approach to ethical representation and cultural sustainability. The two-day International Seminar aims to provide a critical platform for dialogue among scholars, professionals, heritage practitioners, policymakers, and community representatives to explore shared tradition, participatory methodologies, and inclusive heritage practices.

OBJECTIVES:

The seminar meticulously examines the concept of shared heritage and co-curation to explore theoretical frameworks and the ethical dimensions of community participation. It documents case studies and best practices from India and elsewhere. Another key area of the seminar is the study of the voices of source communities as co-creators of heritage narratives.

SUB-THEMES:

1. SHARED HERITAGE: LIVING AND COMMUNITY-OWNED TRADITIONS

- Living heritage and everyday practices.
- Rituals, festivals, and collective participations

2. CO-CURATION PRACTICES IN MUSEUMS AND OTHER CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

- Shared authority, cultural ownership, and ethical representation.
- De-colonising museum narratives through co-curation.
- Participatory exhibition design and storytelling with source-communities

3. INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LIVING TRADITIONS

- Oral histories, rituals, performing arts, and craftsmanship.
- Community custodianship and intergenerational transmission

4. DIGITAL CO-CURATION AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

- Virtual exhibitions and digital storytelling
- Technology as a tool for inclusive participation

5. LEGAL, ETHICAL, AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge
- Community consent and benefit-sharing models of heritage

6. COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

- Voices from source communities and co-curation
- Gender, youth, and marginalized groups in heritage co-creation

OUTCOMES:

- Promotion of ethical, inclusive, and sustainable heritage practices; strengthened networks between academia, institutions, and source communities.
- Compilation of case studies and scholarly articles for publication

CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers, professionals, and academicians are invited to submit original and unpublished research papers in English based on the themes outlined in the concept note. Please ensure submissions are made by the specified deadline for publication. Participants are requested to register for in-person paper presentations at the seminar venue. All accepted papers will be published in the seminar proceedings/book.

All correspondences including abstract and full paper must be sent to the email id: seminar2026cu.museology@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Abstract submission (within 300 words including maximum five key words) along with profile photograph (max. 100KB) and brief curriculum vitae (within 200 words) by **10th February, 2026**.
- Notification of Acceptance of the abstract by **15th February, 2026**
- Submission of full paper for seminar proceedings with a similarity check index not exceeding 10%) by **15th March, 2026**. Full paper must be within 3000-4000 words excluding abstract, key words, and references, in Times New Roman-12, and number of photographs not exceeding 05 nos. Reference system should be in APA7 format.
- Registration link will be sent by **17 March, 2026**. Last date of Registration – **20th March, 2026**.

REGISTRATION FEE:

- For the students from other universities – **Rs.500/-**
- Research scholars and fellows from other university – **Rs.1500/-**
- Faculties from other universities/ individual researchers etc. – **Rs.3000/-**

Please note that no travel allowance or accommodation will be provided by the organizer, however, the department may assist in finding affordable accommodation upon request.



**CONFERENCE HALL, 10TH FLOOR,
ALIPUR CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA
1, REFORMATORY STREET, KOLKATA- 700027**