

# EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Hanna Schreiber\*

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*Building Bridges between the 1972  
and 2003 Conventions:  
Challenges for the Future.*  
Side event at the 41st Session  
of UNESCO World Heritage Committee  
Kraków, 10 July 2017

The Polish Council for Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage co-organized a seminar entitled “Building Bridges between the 1972 and 2003 Conventions: Challenges for the Future”, as a side event of the 41st Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It was held on 10 July 2017, at the International Cultural Centre (MCK) in Kraków, Poland. The aim of this meeting was to debate the differences and similarities between the two UNESCO Conventions, both in normative terms and in the practical context of protection. The participants had an opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by UNESCO and the States Parties to both Conventions, as well as the specific problems faced by those groups, communities, and individuals who perceive their tangible and intangible heritage as a vital part of their identity and a point of reference for socio-cultural practices.

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The matters discussed included: the links between all UNESCO legal tools related to the broad protection of culture; the concept of cultural landscape (based on examples from the Philippines, France, and China); the African perspective on the concept of heritage, where the intangible dimension of heritage is not only closely linked to the natural heritage but also to the sacred dimension of the sites; the question of how to manage sites which combine both strong tangible and intangible aspects (based on examples from Colombia, Morocco, Bolivia, and Poland), including how working with local communities from World Heritage Sites contributes to the management of the site itself and how sharing with them the concepts introduced by different conventions enriches such management; and the lack of concrete instruments and practical mechanisms to make the convergence between both Conventions always possible.

One of the points of reference was the Nativity Scene (*szopka*) tradition in Kraków, the first nomination from Poland to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.<sup>1</sup> The meeting ended with a short movie devoted to this tradition and a networking reception on the terrace of the International Cultural Centre.

The hosts of the event were Hanna Schreiber and Katarzyna Zalasńska, and the guests included: Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, World Heritage Centre, Chief of the Europe and North America Unit; Jing Feng, World Heritage Centre, Chief of the Asia and the Pacific Unit; Nada Al-Hassan, World Heritage Centre, Chief of the Arab States Unit; Edmond Moukala, World Heritage Centre, Chief of the Africa Unit; Mauro Rosi, World Heritage Centre, Chief of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit; Alcira Sandoval-Ruiz, UNESCO Quito (Bolivia); Kristal Buckley, Deakin University, Australian ICOMOS; Lynn Meskell, Stanford University; Laurent Levi-Strauss, UNESCO/Europa Nostra; Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General Europa Nostra; Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary General, Polish NatCom for UNESCO; Aleksandra Waclawczyk, Deputy Secretary General, Polish NatCom for UNESCO; Krystyna Żurek, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO; Agnieszka Wyżnikiewicz, Deputy Representative of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO; Michał Niezabitowski, Director of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków; Nailah Al-Khalifa, heritage specialist from Bahrain; Wang XiaoXiao, FAO; and many others.

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<sup>1</sup> Pending a decision on inscription in 2018; see more below in this SAACLR issue, p. 364.