

The British Museum

International Training Programme

Museums Conference report

29 September – 5 October 2019

Prepared November 2019



Summary

The British Museum's International Training Programme (ITP) seeks to develop a sustainable global network of inspired museum and heritage professionals, through sharing knowledge, skills and experiences. The ITP alumni now totals 299 fellows from 47 countries spanning the world and the Museum aims to develop and deliver a wide range of projects and programmes to ensure the Programme thrives in the years ahead.

Philanthropic support for the ITP has enabled the British Museum (BM) to plan with added confidence and provide for the programme's growing network of culture and heritage professionals. In September 2019, with the generous support of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust and in partnership with the Weald and Downland Living Museum and the National Trust, the Museum was able to support six ITP fellows to attend the Museums Association Annual Conference and Exhibition in Brighton.

This report provides an overview of the scope and delivery of a week-long programme, held in Brighton between 29 September and 5 October 2019. The programme was attended by Astghik Marabyan, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Armenia (ITP Fellow 2017); Zulkifli Ishak, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) (ITP Fellow 2017); Namrata Sarmah, Assam State Museum, Guwahati, India (ITP Fellow 2018); Roshan Mishra, Taragaon Museum, Nepal (ITP Fellow 2018) and Xuejing Dai, Shandong Museum, China (ITP Fellow 2015) who were selected from 26 of the ITP alumni through an open application process. Wesam Mohamed (Egypt, ITP Fellow 2015), who was in the UK as part of a two-month research placement in the Department of Egypt and Sudan for her PhD at Aarhus University, Denmark, also joined us.

For the fellows' full biographies, see **Appendix 1**.



Additional programming

In addition to attending the MA Conference and Exhibition, a key aim for the week was to offer further opportunities for fellows and their institutions to develop skills and experiences and to create new networking opportunities with the hope of stimulating potential future collaborations. With that in mind, we put together an additional programme of visits and sessions over the first two days in Surrey and Sussex.

The fellows were also able to spend some time in London before travelling to Brighton, taking the opportunity to see exhibitions around the city and new displays at the British Museum. Fellows particularly enjoyed the *Sir Stamford Raffles: collecting in Southeast Asia 1811-1824* exhibition in Room 91 and seeing *The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World*, which opened to the public at the end of October 2018. There was also a chance to catch up with colleagues who they had worked with during the summer programme.

Transporting you back in time...

Once in Brighton, the first day trip was to the Weald and Downland Living Museum where we looked at how the cultural sector in the UK preserves its history and how it is presented to visitors through 'living' museums. Lucy Hockley, Cultural Engagement Manager at Weald and Downland, welcomed us with an overview of the museum. Lucy is also responsible for the Museum's learning and interpretation programmes and explained the work they do to engage with their audiences. After exploring the site, we met Julian Bell, Curator of Collections, to learn more about their strong and comprehensive range of some 15,000 objects. During their visit, we asked the fellows to think about whether there was a similar museum in their country and how it compared, as well as whether the hands-on and first-person interpretation added to their experience. The fellows thought about whether they felt transported to another place and time and how the museum achieved this, alongside considering whether a 'living' museum is a good way of preserving rural life.

The additional programming was hugely appreciated by the ITP fellows. They particularly valued time spent with the curator and collections as the objects were so accessible and they could speak directly about the collection with the curator. They also admired and found inspiration in the way the museum was preserving and sharing traditional crafts and skills with their audiences via a 'living' context which they felt greatly enhanced the visitor experience.



Preserving a 'party house'....

The second day trip focused on National Trust property Polesden Lacey, with the aim of demonstrating how the cultural sector in the UK preserves its history and how the National Trust plays a large part protecting, preserving and presenting the nation's heritage. We met Caroline Williams, House and Collections Manager, for a tour and the opportunity to discuss the history of the house, the collection and the challenges of managing a National Trust property. The fellows considered whether they had a similar organisation in their country and how it compared. We advised that they look out for the volunteer guides, to talk to them and find out more about their role and experiences and to think about what they could take back home in terms of the advantages and challenges of managing this kind of property.

See **Appendix 2** for the full workshop programme.



'My motivation was to learn from the sessions and other events at the Museums Association (MA) Annual Conference, but the ITP team has exceeded my expectations with the visits to the Weald and Downland Living Museum and Polesden Lacey.'
 Wesam Mohamed (Egypt, ITP 2015).

The Museums Association

The Museums Association (MA) is a professional membership organisation for museum, gallery and heritage professionals, organisations, and companies that work in the sector. The MA aims to share knowledge, develop skills, inspire innovation and provide leadership while advocating for museums, setting ethical standards and running training and professional development programmes.

The Museums Association Conference and Exhibition is held annually and is the largest event for museum and heritage professionals in Europe. In 2019 speakers from the UK and beyond came together to discuss the latest thinking about museums, galleries and heritage sites. The theme, ***Sustainable and Ethical Museums in a Globalised World***, was linked to current social and political upheaval, demographic changes, rising inequalities and climate change, and considered how museums are a strong position to encourage and facilitate debate about these challenging issues. The conference looked at how the sector can help to create a more sustainable world, how it can communicate challenges such as poverty and climate change to audiences, and how museums can support campaigns that are working for a fairer and more sustainable society. The conference also explored what the environmentally, financially and socially sustainable museum of the future might look like and asked how can institutions adapt to a rapidly changing world and what of kind leadership is needed in the sector to make change possible?

Through attendance at the MA Conference and Exhibition we were able to offer our ITP fellows further platforms to network and gain knowledge beyond what is traditionally offered through the summer programme. Our aim was for fellows to attend a new range of skills-building sessions, to hear from colleagues globally about current practices and projects, to engage in debates around the future of museums and their audiences, and to create networks that may be outside our usual remit.



During the conference ITP fellows were able to attend a diverse range of sessions and lectures and were impressed at the focus on climate change in Western museums. Particularly valued by the group were sessions on community participation, digital, health and wellbeing, world cultures and ethics in museums. Being able to relate this to their own experiences in museums and working practice, as well as in wider society was noted as very beneficial and encouraged the fellows to think creatively about what might be possible at their own institutions. Popular sessions were keynotes from Sharon Heal, Director of Museums Association; *Museum activism in an age of intolerance* and Heledd Fychan, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at National Museum Wales and chair of the MA's Ethics Committee's presentation on their 'sorry not sorry' movement.

The fellows found the conference 'amazing' in terms of the breadth of topics discussed which motivated thinking about similar issues back in their own museums. They came away inspired by the individuals they spoke to, the sessions they attended and the ideas and experiences that were shared.

'This was my first experience in such conference and I was amazed and overwhelmed by the topics that were being discussed. Many of the subjects are not even considered as a museum topic in Nepal but I was exposed to this and I could then think about it in the context of a Nepali museum scenario.' Roshan Mishra (Nepal, ITP 2018).

'I am involved with a museum in Assam, a frontier province of India towards its north-east. My region is not yet closely connected to the fresh conversations and themes in the museum and heritage sector. The MA Conference, being one of the biggest museum events, allowed me to immerse myself in the myriad new forms of dialogues and exchange of ideas in the sector' Namrata Sarmah, (India, ITP 2018).

Networking

Networking was also high on the agenda, and the programme included evening and weekend events, providing an informal and relaxed setting for fellows, the ITP team and conference participants to engage. The fellows particularly enjoyed meeting Simon Stephens, Editor of the Museums Journal and Head of Publications and Events at the Museums Association, with whom they discussed the museum scene in their countries and improvements to, or instigation of, museum associations based there. Simon in turn was able to explain the MA's aims and objectives in a smaller group setting, which the fellows greatly appreciated.



Social Media

The ITP team and fellows tweeted and posted on Facebook throughout the day trips and conference, sharing ideas, inspiration and photos with the ITP network, UK and international colleagues and beyond. The ITP blog has gone from strength to strength and is incredibly popular amongst the network, particularly during the summer and legacy programmes. During the programme in Brighton we asked all of the fellows to contribute to the blog, to inform others about what they saw, shared and learnt while on the programme. During the time period covering this year's legacy project and for social media posts linked to it, Facebook 'likes' increased, as did blog views and Twitter interactions. Particularly popular blog posts included *'Rural houses and stories from the past,'* written by Roshan Mishra (Nepal, ITP 2018), and Wesam Mohamed's (Egypt, ITP 2015) post, *'Day trip to Polesden Lacey – National Trust.'*

'Now, after coming back from this conference, it has made me think, react and action my work responsibly. In Nepal we are some much behind as we have not been able to think and initiate these topics and dialogues. I would definitely like to initiate and discuss similar topics with the Nepal Museum Association and ICOM Nepal so that we could also get ourselves engaged in such conversations and be more critical about the impact we could make in the future through museums.' Roshan Mishra (Nepal, ITP 2018).

Outcomes

The fellows took part in an evaluation session at the end of the week and have all produced reports on their time in Brighton that have demonstrated some clear and immediate results in terms of the legacy of the ITP:

- Enhanced relationships across ITP year cohorts and between curators from different countries.
- Enhanced relationships between the BM, our programme partner museums, the Museums Association and the global ITP network.
- Confirmation of the ITP's strategic aims up to 2020, particularly the potential impact of enabling our fellows to have access to international events that cost and logistics would otherwise bar.
- Interest in subject-specific networks that can sit within the ITP community and provide opportunities for additional growth and support in particular areas of the summer programme.
- In the evaluation, all fellows said the course had changed their thinking and given them new ideas that they wanted to put into practice back home.
- The size of the group meant that fellows could discuss issues and possible collaborations directly with our UK partner museum colleagues and colleagues at the MA and, perhaps most importantly, with each other.

'Assam State Museum is coming up with its first ever Natural History Gallery. As someone in charge of the conceptualisation, I am now inspired to incorporate themes of environment and climate into the gallery space. In addition, we also plan to adhere to an environment-friendly code of ethics with green design and eco-friendly and sustainable methods of display.'
Namrata Sarmah (India, ITP 2018).

Conclusion

This was the fourth MA Conference attended by ITP fellows and yet again provided a platform for discussion and sharing knowledge and experiences that are innovative and inspirational. The MA provides a change in dynamic to the summer programme and our other legacy projects and allows fellows to 'explore' more of the cultural sector in the UK, often introducing them to an area of the cultural sector with particular current relevance.

The five-day programme has helped to demonstrate the successful development of the International Training Programme, while taking a forward-looking approach to building on the networking, partnerships and collaborations that the ITP makes possible. The programme's key aim – to build a global network of museum professionals – has been further supported by the development of these opportunities, which will build additional links between colleagues and strengthen the global community of museums.

The British Museum is very grateful to the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust for its involvement and encouragement of the project, and for providing support to enable fellows to attend. We would also like to thank our UK partner colleagues who gave up their time and shared their expertise and experiences so freely.

'There are so many wonderful things about being an ITP fellow. One of the most beautiful parts is they make you a lifelong member of ITP group. The program doesn't just provide one opportunity, but it keeps on offering more opportunities that could help ITP fellows in their professional career.' Roshan Mishra (Nepal, ITP Fellow 2018)

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Julian Bell, Curator of Collections, Weald and Downland Living Museum
Lucy Hockley, Cultural Engagement Manager, Weald and Downland Living Museum
Simon Stephens, Editor of Museums Journal and Head of Publications and Events, Museums Association
Caroline Williams, House and Collections Manager, Polesden Lacey, National Trust
John Williams, Head of Photography and Imaging at the British Museum

Appendix 1

Fellows' biographies

Astghik Marabyan

	Country	Armenia
	Institution	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Armenia
	Job title	Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage and Folk Arts
	ITP year	2017
	Professional profiles	

Astghik Marabyan is a museum specialist and researcher. She holds a BA in Art History and MA in General History from the Yerevan State University. She began her work in museums in 2007 at the Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) as an Assistant Registrar. In 2016 Astghik took on the role of Director of Education of CCA. As Director of Education for Cafesjian Center for the Arts she was responsible for the education policy of CCA, defining and planning the overall education objectives, supervising the realisation of educational programs for schools, adults and families, as well as community outreach programming, concert series, rentals and special events.

In 2018 Astghik took on her current role, Head of Department Cultural Heritage and Folk Arts for the Ministry of Culture in Armenia. She is now involved in policy development of cultural heritage, including museum sector, monuments, libraries and intangible heritage. Her research interests include museum studies, art education, exhibition methods as educational experiences, modern and contemporary Armenian art. Astghik is a Board Member of the ICOM National Committee and the Museum Education Center in Armenia. In 2016 she co-wrote the *Museum Education Handbook*.

At the British Museum

During her time on the International Training Programme 2017, Astghik was based in the Middle East Department and she spent her partner placement with Norfolk Museums Service. Astghik worked with fellow Mariem Daniel (Egypt) on her exhibition proposal project, entitled *Bridging Voices: Dia Al-Azzaw*. Her participation on the International Training Programme was supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

Legacy projects

In 2018, with ITP UK Partner Ronan Brindley (Head of Learning, Manchester Art Gallery) and ITP 2017 Senior Fellow Hayk Mkrtchyan, Astghik helped deliver a Museum Education Summer School, held at the SMART Center in Lori. The focus was *Museums and Communities: from visiting to participation*.

Dai Xuejing

	Country	China
	Institution	Shandong Museum
	Job title	Educator and Exhibition Curator
	ITP year	2015
	Professional profiles	

Dai Xuejing works as an Educator in the Department of Education and Publicity at Shandong Museum. Xuejing has been working as a museum professional for more than ten years, fulfilling roles as an exhibition curator, education curator, English translator and interpreter. Xuejing's work at the Shandong Museum involves running the museum docent department and curating international travelling exhibitions. Her interests lie in the study of cultural heritage, especially in the ethics of the protection and utilization of cultural heritage.

Xuejing is a current doctoral candidate in archaeology and museology at Shandong University.

At the British Museum

During her time on the International Training Programme in 2015, Xuejing was based in the Asia Department and her UK Partner was Glasgow Museums. Xuejing's exhibition project proposal was entitled *Craftsmanship in Ancient China: Lacquer wine cup cradled in Han Empire*. Her place on the International Training Programme was generously supported by the Sino-British Fellowship Trust and an anonymous gift.

Legacy Projects

In November 2015 Xuejing attended the ITP Mumbai workshop *Creating Museums of World Stories*. The workshop was held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay (CSMVS) and was attended by many ITP fellows from different years and countries, UK partners and British Museum colleagues.

In 2016 Xuejing attended the Leicester University Museum Studies Conference with the ITP team and fellows from Egypt, Turkey and Uganda. The group gave a workshop at the conference on *Shared Histories and Global Voices*.

Wesam Mohamed Abd-El-Alim

	Country	Egypt
	Institution	Aarhus University, Denmark
	Job title	PhD Fellow
	ITP year	2015
	Professional profiles	https://www.linkedin.com/in/wesam-mohamed-111a9769?trk=nav_responsive_tab_profile https://independent.academia.edu/WesamMohamed

Wesam is currently a PhD Fellow at Aarhus University, Denmark. Her research will investigate what the Egyptian public view as ‘their’ heritage in contrast to global perceptions of Egypt’s heritage and will create best practice for community engagement as a means of enhancing identity and protecting heritage resources.

Previously, Wesam was involved in a number of projects within the Ministry of Antiquities in Egypt. She was a Curator at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, a member of the Technical Office of the Head of Museums Sector, a member of the scientific committees of the Airport Museum and Kom-Oushim Museum, part of the Department of Permanent Museum Exhibitions and the International Loans Department. She was also a Museologist for the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Wesam has an MA in Museum Studies on effective strategic planning for the Egyptian museums of antiquities, which was gained under the supervision of Neal Spencer, Keeper of the Department of Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum. She was also the Project Registrar for the Egypt Documentation Project, a joint project between the British Museum and the Ministry of Antiquities in Egypt.

Wesam has spoken at a number of international museum conferences, including the 4th International Architectural Conservation conference and exhibition in Dubai and CIPEG post-conference workshop in Bologna, Italy (both 2016). She was awarded the ICOM International scholarship at ICOM-ITC, Beijing (2016) and the German Archaeological Institute scholarship (2015). She has also undertaken freelance exhibitions work, as Project Manager for the *Made in Egypt* Project (2016) and as Exhibition Coordinator at Tanis Museum (2016).

At the British Museum

During her time on the International Training Programme in 2015, Wesam was based in the British Museum’s Department of Egypt and Sudan. Her UK Partner placement was spent at Bristol Museums. Wesam’s exhibition project proposal was entitled *280 Days of Excuses: Work excused absence in Ancient Egypt*. Her place on the International Training Programme was generously supported by the John S Cohen Foundation.

Namrata Sarmah

	Country	India
	Institution	Assam State Museum, Guwahati, India
	Job title	Project Curator
	ITP year	2018
	Professional profiles	

Namrata has a master's degree in History from the University of Delhi, and in Museology from the National Museum Institute, New Delhi. Her professional interests include histories of memories, critical engagement with tangible and intangible heritages, and oral narratives of modern South Asia. She was born and brought up in Assam, one of the states in India's north-east. Currently she is working as a Project Curator, Assam State Museum, Guwahati. Her responsibilities include exhibition and gallery development (Natural History and Textiles Galleries), overseeing educational activities and events, developing content and documentation, and providing guided tours for official dignitaries visiting the museum.

Previously she was with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi as an Education Assistant. There she conducted educational programmes for diverse audiences, especially students and dignitaries. Her responsibilities included designing research modules, visual documentation, and generating ideas to augment the outreach of the museum and its collections in a holistic manner.

Namrata has also worked with the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam as a Research Assistant. She visited numerous excavation sites in the state of Assam for on-site documentation, including the 7th-9th century stone sculptures in Deopahar Archaeological Park, Numaligarh. She was also involved with designing the display of Madan Kamdev, a 9th-10th century archaeological site renowned for its erotic art.

At the British Museum

During her time with the International Training Programme of British Museum, Namrata was based in the Asia Department and spent her partner placement at National Museums Northern Ireland.

Namrata worked with Rafidah Bahari (Malaysia) and Solomy Nabukalu (Uganda) for her *Object in focus* project, titled *Guts and Eternal Glory*, which engaged with the burial practices of Ancient Egypt.

Her place on the International Training Programme was generously supported by the Charles Wallace India Trust and the Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation.

Legacy Projects

In 2019, Namrata attended an ITP+ Course on *Museums and education*, held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Mahārāj Vastu Saṅgrahālay (CSMVS) Mumbai from 28 – 30 March 2019. The course looked at new and creative ways to engage and educate young audiences.

	Country	Nepal
	Institution	Taragaon Museum
	Job title	Director
	ITP year	2018
	Professional profiles	http://uk.icom.museum/interview-with-roshan-mishra-director-curator-taragaon-museum-nepal/

Roshan studied Art & Animation in the UK and worked as an Interior Designer before joining Taragaon Museum in 2014. He is the Director at Taragaon Museum and a visual artist based in Kathmandu. He is also the head of the Nepal Architecture Archive (NAA), which is run by the Saraf Foundation for Himalayan Traditions and Culture, a patron organization of the Taragaon Museum. Since 2014, he has been affiliated with the Museum and has been working with its permanent collection, launching of the Contemporary Art Gallery and creation of a Library. He has been curating the external and internal exhibitions those are organized at the Taragaon Museum.

Roshan is a visiting faculty at the Kathmandu University for research, archiving and documentation programme. He studied Fine Arts in Nepal and in the UK, and holds a Master's Degree in Digital Art. Currently, he is doing his 2nd MA in Heritage Conservation and Traditional Architecture at the Lumbini Buddhist University in Kathmandu.

In his current role at the museum he meets lots of art, heritage and culture-based professionals. His primary focus at the museum is to collect, document and display the works of foreign scholars who lived in Nepal and document its heritage, tradition, history and culture. Roshan is particularly interested in the contemporary art world and works with lots of young and upcoming contemporary artists. As an artist himself, he enjoys working on conceptual themes, he has exhibited his works in Nepal and abroad.

During his time at the British Museum Roshan was particularly interested in gaining further insight into exhibitions, libraries and archives and collections databases.

At the British Museum

During his time on the International Training Programme, Roshan was based in the Asia Department, and spent his partner placement at Glasgow Museums. Roshan worked with Hoda Abulgheni El Chayah (Lebanon) on his *Object in Focus* project, *A Story of a Youth*. His place on the International Training Programme was generously supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

Zulkifli Ishak

	Country	Malaysia
	Institution	Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM)
	Job title	Curator
	ITP year	2017
	Professional profiles	

Zulkifli works at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) in the Curatorial Affairs Department. He is responsible for the collection of Islamic arms and armour in the museum. He also has an academic interest in field of Malay world history with a particular research interest in Malay world manuscripts. He graduated with bachelor's degree and postgraduate MA study in History & Civilisation.

As a Curator, Zulkifli has responsibility to disseminate knowledge and information related with museum's collection to public and specialized visitors through various methods as exhibitions, permanent display, publications, educational programmes, talks, lectures and tour guides. At the IAMM, his job scope also involves tasks to handle the museum's social media, newsletter, translation works and in-house staff training.

He has experience in making exhibitions at the IAMM, which includes tasks of creating concept and storyline of exhibitions and working on exhibition's management. In 2015, he managed to form a selection of objects from the arms and armour collection in the museum for an exhibition. The exhibition, *Symbols of Power and Beauty: The collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia* showcased the best objects within the collection including masterpieces from different categories such as bladed weapons, staff weapons, firearms, armours and accessories.

At the British Museum

Zulkifli attended International Training Programme in year 2017 and was based in the Middle East Department and spent his partner placement at Bristol Museums. He worked with Norhan Hassan Salem (Egypt) on his exhibition proposal project, entitled *Royal Headgear: Symbolism, Protection and Kingship*.

Appendix 2 - The programme

Saturday 28th September	
Fellows arrive in the UK.	
Sunday 29th September	
Opportunity to visit new displays at the British Museum or for self-guided tours of other institutions.	
Monday 30th September	
09:30	Please meet Anna Cottle, ITP Coordinator, at the hotel reception. Fellows to receive coursebook & programme and welcome bags.
15:45	Fellows travel to Brighton Please meet Anna at hotel reception and she will travel with you to Brighton.
19:15	Welcome dinner and programme expectations.
Tuesday 1st October	
09:00	Day trip to the Weald and Downland Living Museum Meet Claire and Anna at the hotel reception to go over the programme for the days ahead.
11:00	Meeting Lucy Hockley, Cultural Engagement Manager for a welcome and overview of the museum. Time to explore the site and lunch before meeting Julian Bell, Curator of Collections to learn more about their strong and comprehensive range of some 15,000 objects.
15:30	Depart the Weald and Downland Living Museum for Brighton.
Wednesday 2nd October	
08.45	Day Trip to Polesden Lacey Meet Claire and Anna at the hotel reception.
10:30	Arrive at Polesden Lacey and meet Caroline Williams, House and Collections Manager, Polesden Lacey to discuss the history of the house and the collection and the challenges of managing a National Trust property.
15:00	Leaving Polesden Lacey to return to Brighton
16:30 – 20:00	Conference information and help desk open for conference registration.
17:30 – 19:00	Museum lates - Booth Museum of Natural History OR Hove Museum &

18:30 – 20:00	Art Gallery
20:00 – 22:00	Welcome reception, Brighton Centre. Networking drinks.

Thursday 3rd October: MA Conference: Brighton Centre	
07:45 – 08:45	Networking breakfast for first-time delegates
08:00 – 08:30	Early morning tour of the Royal Pavilion garden. Robert Hill- Snook Head Gardener gives a tour of the Royal Pavilion Garden.
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome from the Conference host: Subhadra Das Subhadra Das is a historian, history of science communicator, comedian, writer and museum curator at UCL Culture.
Keynote speakers	Museum activism in an age of intolerance Sharon Heal, Director, Museums Association Sharon Heal will examine our ethical responsibility to address the critical issues of climate crisis, restitution and the decolonisation and democratisation of our collections and institutions.
09:35 – 10:00	Farhana Yamin, Climate crisis activist and environmental lawyer. Heledd Fychan, Head of policy and public affairs at Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museum Wales) and the chair of the MA's Ethics Committee.
14:30 – 14:50	Maggie Appleton, MA President and Chief Executive, RAF Museum
17:15 – 18:00	Clayton Thomas-Muller, a campaigner for indigenous rights and environmental and economic justice.

Friday 4th October: MA Conference: Brighton Centre	
08:00 – 08:30	Networking breakfast for first-time delegates
08:00 – 08:45	Early morning tour of the Royal Pavilion garden.
Keynote speakers	What is a museum? Following the controversy over ICOM's proposed new definition of a museum we ask a panel of experts what the purpose and definition of a museum should be in the 21st century. Chair: Sharon Heal, Director, Museums Association Speakers: Errol Francis, Artistic Director and CEO, Culture&; Richard Sandell, Professor of Museum Studies, Leicester University and Jette Sandahl, Museum Consultant
09:00 -10:00	Ahdaf Soueif

17:15 – 18:00

Ahdaf Soueif will be in conversation with the writer Rachel Holmes.

Saturday 5th October

Museum Association day trips OR day in London.

Sunday 6th October

Fellows leave the UK.