Curating the Complexity – Futures workshop session

Programme for the workshop

Session 1
09.00-09.20 Introduction to the topic
09.20-09.30 Discussion
09.30-10.30 Part of 1 of the workshop: Horizon scanning
  • Warming up
  • Environment Scanning

Session 2
10.45-11.45 Workshop, part 2: Futures Images & actions
11.45-12.00 Presentations and discussion
CURATING THE COMPLEXITY - FUTURES WORKSHOP SESSION

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Futures of a Complex World
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Welcome to the Simulation of Futures Museum

How to do together everyday futures?

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The stream of culture

- Culture is like a stream, and it is not possible step twice in the same stream
- The stream of culture flows from person to person and from past to future intentionally and unintentionally
- In the stream of culture we transfer tangible and intangible traditions from person to person
- Museums have pieces of these traditions in their collections as cultural heritage
Why a Futures Museum?

- Museums are institutions which work both in and with the flow of culture and time
  - Museums give a possibility to remember and to plan and dream together with other people
  - Museums give a possibility to understand present and past time
  - Museums can serve as platforms for participatory futures processes
    - Interpretations of past and present
    - Solutions for transformation of culture to different futures
    - Museums have an ability to intertwine local and global perspectives in time
    - What kind of world views, knowledges, skills people have produced, safeguarded and rejected during centuries?
- Change and resistance to change are basically produced in everyday practices
- However, it is impossible to stop the change of everyday culture
- Everyday culture has a transformative power
- There is a need to look futures from the perspective of everyday practices (culture, intangible and tangible traditions) and their transformative power
- Microfutures (cf. microhistory) instead of macro level processes of futures
Transformations in a complex world

- Everyday futures are connected to the complexity of the world
- Megatrends (Sitra 2016) concretize complex connections of actors and actions in local and global changing processes
  - Global reciprocal reliance between actors and actions both on micro and macro level (increasing intensity of the mobility of information, products and raw material, as well as human beings)
  - Revolutionary technology (digitalization, robotization etc.)
  - Global environmental crisis (climate change, decreasing biodiversity, pollution)
Museums in historical turning points

- **Enlightenment, Reformation**
  - 1666 in Sweden (including current Finland): Collegium for Antiquities (ruins, tombs, castles etc., monuments)

- **Industrialization, urbanization**
  - 19th century national museums
  - 1972 UNESCO Convention for safeguarding of world heritage (buildings, ruins, sites etc.)

- **Information age**
  - Turning point from tangible heritage to intangible heritage (UNESCO Convention for safeguarding of intangible heritage, 2003)

- After 400 years a turning point from tangible heritage to intangible heritage = from conservation of items to co-creation of actions

Photo: K. Siivonen
What could museums do for the future?

- How to deal with the complex, chaotic, transformative power of everyday culture?
- How can everyday traditions be co-produced in a participatory processes into intentional, intangible heritage futures?
- How could heritage futures consist of both productive (innovations) and reproductive actions, practices and material world?
- How could heritage futures be connected to megatrends?
- Today we seek answers to these question by simulating a Futures Museum
- We focus in curating everyday futures in a workshop by using clothing as example