

CECA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN "EDUCATION IN MUSEUMS AND DECOLONIALITY".

Silvana M. Lovay
Regional Coordinator

Period: November 2020 - November 2021

The Special Interest Group on "Museum Education and Decoloniality" has been carrying out its activities since September 2020, coordinated by *Silvana M. Lovay* - Coordinator of CECA LAC-, *Paola Araiza Bolaños* -Correspondent of CECA Mexico- and *Fernanda Venegas Adriazola* -Correspondent of CECA Chile-.

The Seminar is permanently attended by 30 professionals from museums and universities, from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from Spain.

Country of origin

Its members come from countries such as: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Spain.

Some of the Institutions from which the members of the Group come from

Historical Museum of the North - Salta (Argentina)
National University of the South (Argentina)
Metropolitan Museum of Lima (Peru)
Centre for the Study of the Anthropology of Women CEAM (Mexico)
Pachacamac Museum (Peru)
National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore MUSEF -- La Paz (Bolivia)
Tucumé Museum (Peru)
Gabriela Mistral" Education Museum (Chile)
Canal Museum (Panama)
Central Bank Museum (Costa Rica)
Museum of the University of San Carlos (Guatemala)
National Museum of Colombia
Thyseen Bornemisza Museum - Madrid (Spain)
Prado National Museum - Madrid (Spain)
National Institute of Anthropology and History - INAH (Mexico)
Universidad Autónoma de Entre Ríos - Paraná (Argentina)
Museum of the Portuguese Language, São Paulo (Brazil)
Collective "Error Pedagogía", Lima (Peru)
Museum of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine - National University of Córdoba (Argentina)
Lima Museum of Art - MALI (Peru)

Our objective

To study educational initiatives that critically address coloniality in museums.

Trigger questions for the Home

- What do we mean by coloniality?
- How is coloniality expressed in museums?
- What results do we hope to achieve as a study group?

The questions that guided and guide the discussion and construction are:

- How do we understand coloniality in the museum?
- In what way is it possible to undertake educational activities from decoloniality in the museum?
- What methodological guidelines allow us to recognize educational initiatives of this type?
- What are the most common conflicts, difficulties and resistances?
- What are the particularities and characteristics of these activities?

Methodology

We work with a stipulated program. We focus on a theme and specific bibliography that is previously sent for reading by means of trigger questions. In the meetings we apply the modality of group division, where groups are formed by author/reader, a coordinator is the one who guides the group and a spokesperson is the one who records the analysis and discussions to then be shared among all participants. Talks given by previously invited professionals are also taken as part of the discussion, in order to make observations and raise debates. The recorded sessions are used as input for the Group; and the open talks are uploaded to our Youtube Channel.

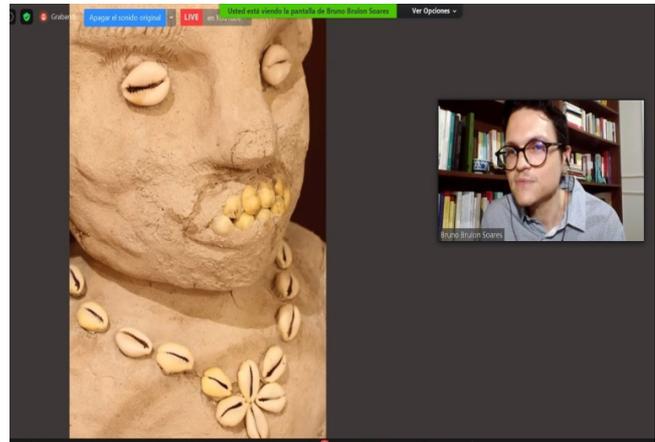
The proposal was developed in its Phase I, under two modalities:

- Analysis and study meetings: the last Wednesday of each month, from 6 to 8 pm.
- Open talks by professionals, specialized in the subject, prior to the monthly meeting, from 18 to 20 hs. In addition to those who are part of the study group, all those who were interested in the subject participated.

Here I point out the numerous work meetings held and the five (5) talks given by specialized professionals, as part of Phase I. -

The Talks, which are detailed below:

- Friday 23 October: Talk by Dr. Karina Bidaseca (Argentina): "Decolonizing/decolonizing museums by appealing to a poetics (erotics) of Relationship".
- Friday 20 November: Talk by Marilia Bonas (Brazil): "Museums and decoloniality: practical challenges".
- Wednesday, December 16: Talk by Dr. Walter Mignolo (United States): "Museums and (De) Coloniality".
- Wednesday 3 February 2021: Talk by Dr. Bruno Brulon (Brazil): "Experimental museums and decolonial mediation".



Graphic design: Fernanda Rivas

- Wednesday, February 17: Talk by Esp. Elvira Espejo Ayca (Bolivia): "Portable Museum, MUSEF closer to you, an experience from the communities".

The last meeting of this First Stage was held on February 24, 2021, taking into account the summer recess, to resume in May. In that interval, the proposal was to work on the basis of what has been done so far, so a slogan was established as part of Phase II, to be deployed as a group through a "Roadmap" during the months of March and April.

Participation of the Regional Coordinator in External Activities: this instance is understood as a space that generates networks in order to highlight what has taken place in the Special Interest Group:

- **Dissertation on** International Museum Day, on the Special Interest Group "Education in museums and decoloniality", in the framework of the IV International Seminar on Education and Museums and the I Meeting of ICOM CECA Spain. Museo del Prado. See at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep_H1SPxrJg
- **Dissertation** at the Seminar on Decoloniality invited by *Dr. Walter Mignolo*, within the framework of the Master in Contemporary Latin American Aesthetics, to talk about "Museology and Decoloniality". National University of Avellaneda. Argentina. See at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da65UA_S4TU
- **An alliance was established between** the CECA LAC together with the Master of Museum Studies of the Faculty of Information of the University of Toronto (Canada) and the Professionals of Racialized Museums (MPOC), to jointly develop the ***Dialogue Meeting "Perspectives on the decolonial and anti-colonial museum"***, between Elvira Espejo Ayca, Director of the National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Director of the Ch'ixi Collective, both from Bolivia, moderated by Dr. Patricia Ayala from Chile. Patricia Ayala from Chile. This event had simultaneous translation into English. There were 270 participants.

Workshop "Museum Education and Decoloniality", given on Thursday 28 October in the framework of the CECA Annual Conference "Co-creation inside and outside the museum", in Leuven (Belgium), from 25 to 29 October 2021.

CECA LAC's participation in the CECA Annual Conference was through the Special Interest Group on "Museum Education and Decoloniality". On the occasion, we offered a **workshop** by this group coordinated by Silvana M. Lovay and Paola Araiza Bolaños.

The workshop allowed us to make visible our work of more than a year, and to put attention on education as a value and central axis in the decolonizing processes in museums, as well as to settle the discussion and put in tension, concepts such as "coloniality" and "decoloniality".

The beginning of it allowed us to tell about the proposal, the objective, the questions, the talks offered, the study of authors that deal with our subject, as well as to highlight the results as part of the methodology designed for this purpose. Duration of the beginning 15'.

Then, the workshop began with a motivating slogan to guide the topic, by Irene Pomar (Spain), through three questions, which resulted in the following *word clouds*. Duration of the activity 10'.

Then, under the proposal of "Building a Museum", coordinated by Mayali Tafur (Colombia), she explained the structure of the session and the methodology. They worked in 6 medium groups. Duration of the activity 50'.

- Group 1: Museum of La Plata (Argentina) by Rosa García
- Group 2: Colombia 15 Indigenous Peoples by María Paula Villani and Julio Melián
- Group 3: The Ex-Convent of Churubusco in Mexico by Karla Chacon
- Group 4: Museo Barrio de Buena Esperanza by Karla Rodriguez
- Group 5: La Plata Museum (Argentina) by María Alejandra Pupio
- Group 6: The ex-Convent of Churubusco in Mexico by Iabne A. Argot

Each group through the exercise of discussion to agree on consensus, did so, articulated by seven questions, such as:

1. What is the story that can be told?
2. What kind of museum is envisaged, what would be its objective?
3. What kind of exhibition(s) will be organized, with whom is it decided?
4. Who is the target audience of our museum?
5. What will the museum be called?
6. What place does education have in the museum, and how is it reflected in what is done?

What is the communication strategy to use?

In the return to share all the work done in the Collaborative Platform "Miro", the work done and concluded by each group was socialized, moderated by Mayali Tafur. Duration of the activity 30'.

The Conclusions were in charge of Paola Araiza Bolaños from CECA Mexico, Evelyn Salazar Palomino, from the collective "Error Pedagogía" from Peru and Silvana M. Lovay, from CECA LAC.

Workshop participants: 45 persons

What are we continuing to work on?

The Special Interest Group also works and continues in the task of joint writing, divided into 5 subgroups of analysis and reflection, giving answers to the articulating questions of our subject of study.

This **writing** is proposed, taking each of the questions, and there are generated both key words and central ideas that favour the establishment of binding relationships between decolonial theory in order to reach and agree on a collective writing with all the voices and diversity of views, in relation to the praxis of museum education from our institutions and the decolonizing process necessary to exercise in the museums of the region.

The **schedule we** have established has scheduled this task to continue until December 8, resuming at the beginning of 2022.