

Call for papers:

HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS: NORDIC PERSPECTIVES

The anthology *Historic House Museums: Nordic Perspectives* (tentative title) presents a broad range of perspectives on historic house museums in the Nordic countries – Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, and Iceland. The book sheds light on how the Nordic countries understand, define, preserve, exhibit, manage, and communicate about our historic house museums. This includes house museums in the broadest sense of the word - from farmhouses, manor houses, artist homes, bunker museums, open air museums, and other types of historic buildings that have been preserved, and where people have lived for shorter or longer periods of time.

Much of the current literature on historic house museums comes from the US or the UK, where many efforts have been made to create overviews, categories, and definitions that clarify a typology for historic house museums and how historic house museums can be understood. In our anthology, we want to contribute to this literature by presenting perspectives on historic house museums from the Nordic countries, where our unique cultures, history, and climate come into play. In some ways, the Nordic countries are very different from one another, but in other ways we are closely connected, not least through political history, language, culture, and to some extent - climate. This anthology will present perspectives from the Nordic countries regarding the most pressing issues, challenges, and potentials related to historic house museums in this region of the world. This includes perspectives on preservation and conservation, organisational perspectives, interpretation, collections, dissemination and visitor communication, community and identity, material or immaterial heritage, and not least more general discussions of how historic house museums are defined, categorised, and understood in the different Nordic countries.

The anthology targets museum staff, researchers, and academic students who work within the fields of museums & cultural heritage. It aims at giving Nordic house museums and Nordic house museum researchers a voice in international discussions about the definitions and value of this unique category of museums.



TOPICS AND PERSPECTIVES

We invite authors to write about perspectives such as:

Preservation & conservation

Nordic climate and conservation / Climate-related issues / Geographical or cultural perspectives on preservation and conservation / Materials & sustainability / Risk assessment / Collection management / Security & (theft) prevention / Monitoring and prioritising / Conservation technologies / Physical forces – fire, water, contamination, light, temperature, insect infestation.

Visitor communication and public access

Visitor data & demography / Visitor communication / Digital communication and access / Physical accessibility / Intellectual accessibility / Interpretation & access / Virtual communication & access / Communication technologies / Multimodal communication / Sensory-based communication - sound, light, touch, taste / Storytelling / Exhibitions.

Community and identity issues

Who feels ownership? / Who is included and excluded? / Who feels represented and not represented? / The local and the national / Class, gender and ethnicity / Representation and inclusion / Local communities / Special groups / Social sustainability / Revitalisation & returning visitors.

Material, immaterial or hybrid perspectives

Collections / Authentic objects / Material collections / Buildings / Rooms / Interiors / Material Space / Storage / Registration / Immaterial heritage / Nordic craft traditions / Preserving community and identity / Preserving immaterial heritage / Mixed or hybrid realities.

Collection interpretation & narratives

Lived life / Biography vs. objects or house / Hidden or untold narratives / The unpreserved, neglected or hidden / Reconstruction / Construction / New & old / Past & present / Collecting & cultural sustainability.

Organisational perspectives & issues

Organisational challenges and developments / Professional skills - what skills are in play, or what professional skills are missing at house museums? / Economic and organisational sustainability / Cultural & social sustainability.

What is a house museum?

When is something a house museum and what is special about them? / How are house museums defined or categorised in your country? / What unique categories of house museums exist in your country? / What is the status on house museum research in your country?



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We ask authors to submit article proposals of between ½ and 2 pages. The proposals should include a clear research question and present the focus area, main arguments or discussion points, and main research methods – depending on which type of article it concerns.

We welcome different article formats as we want to combine more classic academic and theoretical formats with for instance case-based dilemmas, interview-based articles, new statistical or qualitative data, image-based research or other experimental formats.

We welcome article proposals, preferably in English, as this will be the main language for the final publication. However, we are open to submissions in Nordic languages if this is important to the author. In such cases, we will provide an English translation of the article for the final publication and aim to also make the Nordic language version available on-line.

The submission date is October 1st, 2024, by e-mail to postdoc Mia F. Yates: my@cc.au.dk

We ask that you include your full name, organisation and CV, in your submission, along with your proposal. Information about submissions can also be found at this link: <https://museologi.au.dk/publikationer/call-for-papers>

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us at the above e-mail address.

REVIEW PROCESS

After the submission date, the editorial group will read through all the article proposals. A decision will be announced in December 2024. At this point, a new deadline will be set for the full paper submission (approximately august 2025).

After the final submission, all papers will be sent for double blind review and will go through a standard review process. Reviews are expected to be completed by November 1st, 2025. A new date for re-submission will be set for early 2026, and publication is expected in 2026.

EDITORIAL GROUP

This book project has been initiated by the Danish Network for House Museums, which is a network under the auspices of The Association of Danish Museums, ODM (<https://www.dkmuseer.dk/english-odm/>).

The Danish Network for House Museums has been active since 2018. It organises events and annual seminars on the specific challenges, potentials, and issues related to house museums.

The editorial group consists of professor of Museology Ane Hejlskov Larsen and postdoc Mia Falch Yates, both at the Department of Art History & Museology, School of Communication & Culture, Aarhus University, and Rikke Bjarnhof, Dean and head of the Institute of Conservation at The Royal Danish Academy of Architecture, Design & Conservation, Copenhagen.

