

The “Cognitive adventures” Conference at the Copernicus Science Centre

9th–10th November 2015

Workshops, sessions, panel discussions, meetings with
researchers and practitioners

The Copernicus Science Centre and the University of Warsaw would like to invite you to take part in an international, interdisciplinary research conference entitled “Cognitive adventures”.

Whom is the conference intended for:

- **scholars and practitioners** whose work in the fields of psychology, pedagogy, sociology, anthropology, the reception of science and art, etc., helps us to better grasp people’s cognitive experiences in the kind of environment created by science centres, museums, and other institutions of informal education;
- **representatives of science centres, museums, and other informal-education institutions** who want to better understand the role played by their institutions, their impact on social and scientific capital, and the cognitive processes that visitors experience there;
- **educators and instructors** who wish to share their experience in presenting, developing, and popularizing science-related content.

The conference will be accompanied by research workshops within the exhibition space of the Copernicus Science Centre. The sessions will be organized to facilitate creative dialogue between researchers and practitioners – to the benefit of future joint projects.

Keynote speakers

Prof. Louise Archer from King’s College London, who leads the ASPIRES research program studying scientific capital and the aspiration of British school children.

Prof. Paulo Blikstein, Stanford University, USA.

Prof. Anna Giza, University of Warsaw.

Dr. Diana Issidorides, Science Centre NEMO, Amsterdam.

The objectives of the conference:

1. **To present relevant research findings and to facilitate the sharing of experience** about our current state of knowledge of the cognitive processes that take place in the environment created by science centres, museums, and other institutions of informal education, about the role such institutions play in the life of society, and about promising avenues of research in this regard.
2. **To foster closer links between scientists and practitioners from Poland and abroad**, to encourage joint projects studying how science centres, museums, and other cultural institution are experienced and how they contribute to the development of social and scientific capital.

The conference will include:

- research workshops;
- sessions (plenary, panel, poster);
- a walk through the Copernicus Science Centre exhibition space together with the keynote speaker;
- meetings with scientists and educators.

Conference themes:

1. Cognition, learning, and experience in museums and science centres:

- cognitive processes and strategies, their social and psychological underpinnings;
- learning, teaching, cognition – contemporary shifts in how education and learning are defined;
- teachers, educators, parents – defining and redefining roles in the learning process;
- creativity, curiosity, frustration – emotions in cognitive processes.

2. Social capital and scientific capital – the role played by science centres and informal-education institutions in effecting social change:

- the science aspirations of school children – the role played by institutions of informal education;
- social capital, scientific capital, cultural capital – definitions, values, and dynamics;
- participation in informal education – elite, egalitarian, universal, inaccessible?

3. Exhibition environments, individual exhibits, and “designed” visitor experiences:

- the quality of exhibitions and of individual exhibits – evaluation criteria, methods of analysis;
- impact – scope, methods of analysis, evaluation criteria;
- the hidden dimension of exhibitions, the significance of individual exhibits.

Additional information, fees and dates:

1. The conference language will be English. We will provide simultaneous translation into Polish. A poster session is also being planned, as an opportunity to discuss research topics.

2. Please submit presentation proposals in English (limited to 3,000 characters including spaces) **by 15 July 2015**, together with your registration form. By 15 September 2015 we will inform you whether the conference Scientific Council has accepted your proposal.

3. Registration deadlines:

- **15 July 2015 for active participants (those delivering presentations),**
- **30 September 2015 for passive participants.**

4. The conference **fee is 400 PLN or 95 EURO**, for both active and passive participants. This fee includes conference participation, conference materials, coffee breaks, lunch, and the official dinner inaugurating the conference.

- The fee should be paid within 10 calendar days of receipt of acceptance from the Copernicus Science Centre, by bank transfer to the account listed on the participation form.
- The conference fee for individuals who register after 15 July is 500 PLN or 119 EURO.
- We offer a discount fee for doctorate students: 250 PLN or 60 EURO.

5. The organizers plan to publish a post-conference volume in Polish and English. The authors of the articles chosen for publication will receive a publication fee.

6. The number of conference participants is limited.

We encourage you to take part in the conference and deliver a presentation.

The registration is available on the Copernicus Science Centre website:
www.adventures.kopernik.org.pl

E-mail contact: adventures@kopernik.org.pl

