

## International Network *Popular Uses of the Past* (POPUP)

A collaboration of the Center for Historical Culture (Erasmus University Rotterdam), the Institute for Public History (University of Ghent) and the Master of History (Universität zu Köln)

### Introduction

Three research and education groups have agreed to found the International Network *Popular Uses of the Past* (POPUP).

- In the **Netherlands**, the Center for Historical Culture at Erasmus University Rotterdam has generated many (externally funded) research projects in the fields of history education, heritage and historical consciousness, popular uses of (war) heritage (e.g. war tourism and war video games). The history department in Rotterdam also offers the Bachelor's course 'The public role of historians'.
- In **Belgium**, the inter-university Institute for Public History at the University of Ghent organises all kinds of activities (research, education, valorisation) focused on how people deal with the past, including education, museums, commemorations, heritage. The history department offers 'Public History' as a field of study in the Bachelor and Master program.
- In **Germany**, the Master program 'History' at the university of Cologne includes 'Public History' as an important field of study, aiming at an analysis and reflection of the public uses of history in politics, media, museums and computer games.

### Background

Over the past ten years, research into popular uses of the past, popular historical culture and public history has become a booming field in various departments of history and cultural studies all over the world. Several universities also offer Bachelor's and Master's courses about POPUP in their education programs. Recently, the German Public History Blogjournal publishes interesting contributions and debates on how academic historians, teachers, and others in daily life deal with (public) history (<http://public-history-weekly.oldenbourg-verlag.de/issues/>). In 2012 the Task Force for Public History has been transformed in the International Federation for Public History-Fédération Internationale pour l'Histoire Publique. ([IFPH-FIHP bylaws](#) in English and French). The IFPH is an organisation mandated to create international linkages between public historians and promote the development of a world wide network of Public History practitioners. The federation's purpose is to encourage, promote, and coordinate, at an international level, contacts, teaching and research in public history (<http://ifph.hypotheses.org/>).

### Information about the founding organisations of POPUP

- Center for Historical Culture (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands). Director is prof.dr. Maria Grever ([www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/](http://www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/))
- Institute for Public History (University of Ghent, Belgium). Directors are prof. dr. Gita Deneckere and prof. dr. Bruno de Wever (<http://www.ipg.ugent.be/>)
- Public History is a field of study within the Master of History (Universität zu Köln, Germany) coordinator is ass.prof. dr. Christine Gundermann ([www.histinst.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/master\\_public\\_history.html](http://www.histinst.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/master_public_history.html))

### Aims of POPUP

The International Network *Popular Uses of the Past* (POPUP) aims at:

1. intensifying the exchange in research and education in the fields of popular historical culture and public history on an institutional level;
2. stimulating research on the relationship between history education and popular uses of the past, including heritage;
3. making research and education in the fields of POPUP more visible in the humanities.

**Short-term objectives**

- Making the three groups more visible on the websites with the latest news on research, activities, publications in the fields of popular historical culture and public history.
- Organizing one or two meetings a year and inviting scholars of the three groups to deliver papers on current research.
- Referring to each other when we write applications for research grants.

**Long-term objectives**

- Exploring the possibilities for joint research applications on an European level.
- Organizing student and staff exchange within the three groups.
- Inviting other relevant and interesting centers in the field of POPUP, more particularly those who are doing research in combinations of History Education, Heritage, Popular Historical Culture and Public History.