## 530: Bias in data structure

Short [presentation](http://www.cidoc-crm.org/sites/default/files/Issue%20530_%20Bias%20in%20data%20structure_0.pdf) by **TV**;

### **Presentation of the WPC Project, by P.Goodwin**

**PG**: [WPC Project](https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/current-research-and-projects/worlding-public-cultures) in relation to CIDOC CRM and the discussions in the SIG.

Worlding Public Cultures Project: Leading an international consortium of museums and universities (UvA, VUA, Concordia University, Carleton University, Heidelberg University)

End goal is to facilitate international exchange on key exhibitions, university courses and activist campaigns centered on decolonizing museums, transnational-decolonial curating in the field of transnational art.

Project website to function as a global hub for exchanging information in the field.

Expand the project to include narratives from the “Global South”.

**Methodology**: not only collecting data for the database, but also organizing 3-4 day events with partner institutions.

* Nov 2019 Ottawa (Carleton Uni.): how indigenous art has been curated, discussed and theorized in museums and universities
* Sep 2021 Amsterdam: decolonization, activism, and institutions (i.e. how cultural heritage organizations can rethink on the content of their collections)
* Dec 2021: London: Worlding the Caribbean -Caribbean as a global culture (to inform museum and pedagogical practices worldwide -accompanied by a major exhibition on Caribbean art at the Tate)

The database for the WPC project heavily draws on CIDOC CRM for the schema. Building the database resulted in a number of issues to be brought up: (i) the underlying assumptions, which conceptions of Art in the Western thought rely on; (ii) the structure and purpose of the database and how they can be made more transparent.

Would like to collaborate with the SIG for the discussion of these issues.

**Discussion:**

**OE**: needs there to be a clear definition of bias. Bias vs. cultural practice etc. Wordcloud of semantic relations –part of the work of the WG. Something that should be determined quite early.

**RS**: assertion about bias in cultural heritage collections produced by Yale (definition of bias was a large part of the process). Core terminology for bias that they concluded at: **bias**, **inclusion**, **transparency**, **awareness**, **responsibility**, **ethical**, **anti-oppression**, **dignity** and **humility**

**MD**: well-defined goals from the start if possible. In what concerns the SIG, we need to be clear about the function of the CRM. To establish connections among constructs observed in cultural historical description. It’s extremely neutral in this respect. However, being committed to ensuring that no part of cultural diversity is lost, means that we have to understand (i) the kinds of statements one can make using the CRM, (ii) the kinds of statements we would like the CRM to be able to support.

What needs be taken into account is the information that is relevant/salient from the perspective of the cultures it stems from. Especially with what has been dubbed \*indigenous art\*.

**RS**: The core aspect of the bias discussion is not the *result* of the standardization process, but the *methods* by which we come to those results including direct engagement with those affected by the results.

**PROPOSAL:**

1. **Form a working group** ([WPC](https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/current-research-and-projects/worlding-public-cultures) is a potential partner/forum)
2. **Discuss and understand what the concerns are** (Which forms of bias in data structures can interfere with cultural points of view, and what empirical or theoretical means we have to detect them? Should documenting concepts of one’s culture as an empirical fact be regarded as bias? Find common denominator or maximise diversity?)
3. **Produce a statement on bias for the CRM specification document**
4. Establish **criteria for examining classes and properties**
5. Create **new issues for improving the model**

Vote on the formation of a WG:   
In favor: 10  
Against: none

**Decision:** inform the sig-list of the decision to start a WG on the discourse around bias and ask if they want to join the initiative. **TV** will be leading the discussion, **PG** and **M.H-U** will support the initiative.