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Vilja Lukan

Doc. dr. Saša Poljak Istenič

Red. prof. dr. Oto Luthar

MUZEALIZACIJA TEŽKE DEDIŠČINE: TABORIŠČE LJUBELJ NA PRESEČIŠČU
MUZEOLOGIJE IN ŠTUDIJ SPOMINOV

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POVZETEK

Disertacija z naslovom Muzealizacija težke dediščine: Taborišče Ljubelj na presečišču muzeologije in študij spominov obravnava kompleksnost ohranjanja in interpretacije težke dediščine, s posebnim poudarkom na koncentracijskem taborišču Ljubelj jug. Gre za edino nacistično koncentracijsko taborišče na območju Slovenije, kjer je bilo med letoma 1943 in 1945 internirano okoli 1800 ljudi različnih narodov, ki so bili prisiljeni delati pri gradnji predora Ljubelj. Koncentracijsko taborišče Ljubelj je bilo zunanja enota matičnega taborišča Mauthausen od koder so pripeljali internirance med katerimi je bilo največ Francozov, Poljakov, Rusov, Jugoslovanov, med njimi največ Slovencev. Za potrebe gradnje predora so na avstrijski strani zgradili še eno taborišče, Ljubelj sever. Interniranci so delali od jutra do večera v vseh vremenskih razmerah. Nasproti južnega taborišča je stalo tudi civilno taborišče. Civilni delavci so prav tako delali na predoru in nekateri med njimi so vzpostavili komunikacijo z interniranci in jim pomagali s hrano, z vzpostavljanjem stika s svojci ter pri pobegih. Po vojni je bil predor dolgo časa zaprt, ombočje nekdanjega koncentracijskega taborišča pa zastraženo. Leta 1954 so po načrtih arhitekta Borisa Kobeta na območju nekdanjega civilnega taborišča postavili spomenik *J'accuse!/Obtožujem!*, ki služi kot spomin na vse, ki so bili v koncentracijskem taborišču Ljubelj zaprti in kot opomin za prihodnje generacije. Spominski prostor obsega območje nekdanjega jetniškega taborišča, območje taborišča za esesovce, območje nekdanje ambulante in krematorij. V skladišču nekdanje kuhinje je spominski prostor s spominskimi kamni. V kleti bližnjega gostišča Karavla je od leta 2021 postavljena stalna muzejska postavitev *Koncentracijsko taborišče Ljubelj/Mauthausen 1943-1945*, ki predstavlja zgodovina obstoja Ljubelja, podkrepjeno z originalnimi predmeti, fotografskim gradivom in filmom.

Disertacija poudarja pomen muzejev, ki se ukvarjajo z ohranjanjem in interpretacijo težke dediščine, kot ključnih institucij za ohranjanje družbenega spomina na travmatične dogodke preteklosti. Muzeji, ki obravnavajo težko dediščino, lahko z izobraževalnimi programi in premišljeno interpretacijo prispevajo k razvijanju empatije, kritičnega razmisleka o zgodovini in spodbujanju družbene angažiranosti. Avtorica raziskuje, kako različni muzeji težke dediščine vplivajo na kolektivni spomin ter kako interpretacija teh tem pripomore k boljšemu razumevanju preteklosti v sodobnem času. Avtorica se pri svojem raziskovanju naslanja na teoretska izhodišča različnih avtorjev, sama pa težko dediščino opredeljuje kot dediščino, ki je povezana s težkim obdobjem zgodovine in težkimi dogodki, kot so vojne, genocid, množično nasilje in druge oblike represije, je pa pomembna za sedanost in prihodnost. Čeprav muzealizacija takšne dediščine pogosto vzbuja neprijetne občutke, kot so žalost, tesnoba in jeza, je pomembno, da jo ustrezno ohranimo in interpretiramo, saj nas opominja na nevarnosti sovraštva, nestrpnosti in politične represije.

V prvem delu disertacije avtorica poda teoretske osnove o težki dediščini, pri čemer se opira na dela različnih raziskovalcev, ki preučujejo kompleksne in travmatične zgodovinske dogodke. Muzealizacija težke dediščine, ki vključuje ohranjanje in interpretacijo krajev, povezanih s takimi dogodki, predstavlja poseben izziv za muzejske delavce in strokovnjake s področja muzeologije. Avtorica poudarja, da je ključnega pomena, da so takšni kraji predstavljeni na premišljen, etičen in občutljiv način, ki spoštuje tako žrtve kot tudi preživele ter omogoča obiskovalcem, da se poglobijo v preteklost, hkrati pa ohranijo kritični razmislek o sedanji družbi.

Avtorica se v svoji raziskavi poglubi v vprašanje, kako muzealizacija težke dediščine vpliva na kolektivni spomin, zlasti kako lahko različni pristopi k predstavljanju težkih tem pripomorejo k razumevanju preteklih travmatičnih dogodkov v sodobnem kontekstu. Zgodovinski spomin na koncentracijska taborišča je pomemben ne le zaradi ohranjanja preteklosti, ampak tudi zaradi njegove vloge pri opozarjanju na nevarnosti, ki jih prinaša nestrpnost, sovraštvo in totalitarizem.

V drugem delu disertacije avtorica izvede primerjalno analizo slovenskih in tujih muzejev težke dediščine, vključno z Memorialnim muzejem Mauthausen, Memorialnim muzejem Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bazo 20 in Partizansko bolnico Franja. Ti muzeji so prepoznani kot pomembni kraji ohranjanja spomina na grozodejstva druge svetovne vojne in kot primeri dobrih praks ohranjanja težke dediščine. Analiza teh primerov vključuje pregled njihovih pristopov k muzealizaciji, izobraževalnim programom in turističnim vsebinam, s poudarkom na tem, kako te institucije prispevajo k ohranjanju spomina na travmatične dogodke in hkrati omogočajo sodobnim obiskovalcem, da te dogodke razumejo v širšem zgodovinskem kontekstu.

V zadnjem delu disertacije avtorica oblikuje konceptualni predlog za memorialni muzej na območju nekdanjega taborišča Ljubelj jug. Predlog vključuje vzpostavitev stalne razstave, ki bi združevala zgodovinske predmete, fotografsko in video gradivo, ter pričevanja preživelih, ki bi obiskovalcem omogočili poglobljen vpogled v življenje internirancev in zgodovino taborišča. Avtorica predlaga tudi oblikovanje interaktivnega pedagoškega programa, ki bi temeljil na sodelovanju s šolami in drugimi izobraževalnimi ustanovami, ter oblikovanje spominske poti, ki bi obiskovalce popeljala skozi ključne točke zgodovine koncentracijskega taborišča Ljubelj. Na podlagi raziskav različnih muzeoloških praks avtorica razvije konceptualni predlog za memorialni muzej na območju nekdanjega koncentracijskega taborišča Ljubelj jug.

Disertacija se na tej točki ukvarja tudi z vprašanjem, kako pritegniti mlajše generacije, ki so vse bolj oddaljene od dogodkov druge svetovne vojne in s tem povezanih zgodovinskih spominov. Avtorica predlaga vključevanje različnih pedagoških pristopov, kot so interaktivne dejavnosti, pričevanja preživelih internirancev, video pričevanja ter uporaba sodobnih tehnologij za vzpostavljanje osebne povezave z zgodovino. Ti pristopi omogočajo obiskovalcem, zlasti mlajšim, da globlje razumejo kompleksnost preteklih dogodkov ter njihov pomen za sedanost in prihodnost.

Avtorica raziskuje tudi vlogo muzejev kot orodij za spodbujanje izobraževanja o človekovih pravicah, solidarnosti ter boju proti sovraštvu in nestrpnosti. Eden izmed ključnih ciljev disertacije je ugotoviti, kako lahko premišljena interpretacija težke dediščine vpliva na oblikovanje kolektivnega spomina določene skupnosti in hkrati prispeva k družbeni ozaveščenosti o pomenu ohranjanja spomina na travmatične dogodke. Disertacija prav tako preučuje pojav temačnega turizma, ki vključuje obiskovanje krajev, povezanih s trpljenjem in smrtjo, in njegovo vlogo pri ohranjanju spomina na težko dediščino.

Z analizo zgodovinskih virov, pričevanj in primerjav z drugimi evropskimi muzeji težke dediščine avtorica prinaša dragocen prispevek k razpravi o tem, kako pravilno predstaviti težavno preteklost in kako to dediščino uporabiti za izobraževalne namene, da bi preprečili, da bi se zgodovina ponovila. Avtorica zaključuje, da ima ohranjanje težke dediščine izjemen pomen za sodobno družbo, saj omogoča, da se spominjamo preteklih travmatičnih dogodkov in iz njih

črpamo pomembne lekcije za prihodnost. Muzeji, ki se ukvarjajo s težko dediščino, imajo ključno vlogo pri izobraževanju in ozaveščanju o človekovih pravicah, pomenu strpnosti, spoštovanja in solidarnosti. Ohranjanje spomina na koncentracijska taborišča, kot je Ljubelj, prispeva k razumevanju zgodovine in preprečevanju, da bi se tovrstne tragedije v prihodnosti ponovile.

Ključne besede: Težka dediščina, muzeologija, koncentracijsko taborišče Ljubelj, druga svetovna vojna, interpretacija.

SUMMARY

The dissertation titled *The Musealization of Difficult Heritage: The Ljubelj Camp at the Intersection of Museology and Memory Studies* addresses the complexity of preserving and interpreting difficult heritage, with a particular focus on the Ljubelj South concentration camp. It examines the only Nazi concentration camp on Slovenian soil, where around 1,800 people of various nationalities were interned between 1943 and 1945, forced to work on the construction of the Ljubelj tunnel. Ljubelj South was a subcamp of the main camp Mauthausen, from which prisoners were transported, including mostly French, Polish, Russian, Yugoslavian prisoners, with the majority being Slovenes. To facilitate the construction of the tunnel, another camp was established on the Austrian side, Ljubelj North. The prisoners worked from dawn to dusk in all weather conditions. Opposite the southern camp stood a civilian camp, where workers were also employed in the construction of the tunnel, some of whom established communication with the prisoners, helping them with food, contact with their families, and aiding their escapes. After the war, the tunnel was closed for a long time, and the area of the former concentration camp was guarded. In 1954, a monument titled *J'accuse!/I Accuse!* was erected on the site of the former civilian camp, designed by architect Boris Kobe, as a reminder of all those who were imprisoned in Ljubelj and as a warning to future generations. The memorial area includes the grounds of the former prison camp, the SS camp, the former infirmary, and a crematorium. In the former kitchen building, a memorial space with commemorative stones is located. Since 2021, a permanent museum exhibition *Ljubelj/Mauthausen Concentration Camp 1943-1945* has been displayed in the basement of the nearby Karavla Inn, presenting the history of Ljubelj with original artifacts, photographs, and a film.

The dissertation emphasizes the importance of museums that deal with the preservation and interpretation of difficult heritage as key institutions for maintaining societal memory of traumatic past events. Museums that address difficult heritage can, through educational programs and thoughtful interpretation, contribute to developing empathy, critical reflection on history, and promoting social engagement. The author explores how various museums of difficult heritage influence collective memory and how interpreting these themes helps improve the understanding of the past in contemporary contexts. Drawing from various theoretical frameworks, the author defines difficult heritage as heritage related to challenging historical periods and events, such as wars, genocide, mass violence, and other forms of repression, which remain significant for both the present and the future. While the musealization of such heritage

often evokes unpleasant feelings such as sadness, anxiety, and anger, it is essential to preserve and interpret it appropriately, as it reminds us of the dangers of hatred, intolerance, and political repression.

In the first part of the dissertation, the author lays the theoretical foundations for difficult heritage, drawing on the work of various scholars who study complex and traumatic historical events. The musealization of difficult heritage, which involves preserving and interpreting sites associated with such events, presents a unique challenge for museum professionals and museology experts. The author emphasizes that it is crucial for these sites to be presented in a thoughtful, ethical, and sensitive manner that honors both the victims and survivors, allowing visitors to engage deeply with the past while maintaining a critical reflection on contemporary society. The author delves into the question of how the musealization of difficult heritage affects collective memory, particularly how various approaches to presenting difficult themes can contribute to the understanding of past traumatic events in modern contexts. Historical memory of concentration camps is significant not only for preserving the past but also for its role in alerting us to the dangers posed by intolerance, hatred, and totalitarianism.

In the second part of the dissertation, the author conducts a comparative analysis of Slovenian and international museums of difficult heritage, including the Mauthausen Memorial, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial, Baza 20, and the Franja Partisan Hospital. These museums are recognized as important sites for preserving the memory of the atrocities of World War II and as examples of good practices in preserving difficult heritage. The analysis of these examples includes a review of their approaches to musealization, educational programs, and tourist content, focusing on how these institutions contribute to preserving the memory of traumatic events while helping contemporary visitors understand these events in a broader historical context.

In the final part of the dissertation, the author proposes a conceptual design for a memorial museum at the site of the former Ljubelj South camp. The proposal includes the establishment of a permanent exhibition that would combine historical artifacts, photographic and video materials, and testimonies from survivors, offering visitors an in-depth insight into the life of the prisoners and the history of the camp. The author also suggests the creation of an interactive educational program, in collaboration with schools and other educational institutions, and the development of a memorial path that would guide visitors through key points in the history of the Ljubelj concentration camp. Based on research into different museological practices, the author develops a conceptual proposal for a memorial museum at the site of the former Ljubelj South concentration camp.

The dissertation also addresses the challenge of engaging younger generations, who are increasingly distant from the events of World War II and the associated historical memories. The author suggests incorporating various educational approaches, such as interactive activities, survivor testimonies, video testimonials, and the use of modern technologies to establish a personal connection with history. These approaches enable visitors, especially younger ones, to better understand the complexity of past events and their significance for the present and future.

The author also explores the role of museums as tools for promoting education about human rights, solidarity, and the fight against hatred and intolerance. One of the key goals of the dissertation is to determine how thoughtful interpretation of difficult heritage can influence the shaping of collective memory within a community while contributing to societal awareness of the importance of preserving the memory of traumatic events. The dissertation also examines the phenomenon of dark tourism, which involves visiting sites associated with suffering and death, and its role in preserving the memory of difficult heritage. Through the analysis of historical sources, testimonies, and comparisons with other European museums of difficult heritage, the author makes a valuable contribution to the discourse on how to appropriately present difficult pasts and how to use this heritage for educational purposes, to prevent history from repeating itself. The author concludes that preserving difficult heritage is of immense importance for contemporary society, as it allows us to remember past traumatic events and draw important lessons for the future. Museums that address difficult heritage play a crucial role in educating and raising awareness about human rights, the importance of tolerance, respect, and solidarity. Preserving the memory of concentration camps like Ljubelj contributes to understanding history and preventing such tragedies from happening again in the future.

Key words: Difficult heritage, museology, Ljubelj concentration camp, second world war, interpretation.