



Annual conference

26 and 27 June 2014

Riverside Museum (Glasgow)  
and National Mining Museum, Scotland (Newtongrange)

### Call for contributions

The **Social History Curators Group** is a membership organisation dedicated to improving the status and provision of social history in museums and the standards of collections, research, display and interpretation. Our annual conference aims to facilitate the sharing of skills and experiences, and provoke debate around a current theme affecting our members through presentations, interactive workshops and tours.

This year's theme is:

### **Deep Impact: demonstrating the value of social history collections**

For the last 15 years social history curators have led the way in developing methods to actively engage communities with museums, providing access to collections which resonate with community groups, representing and connecting with hard-to-reach individuals and providing personal connections to local people.

In a time of austerity, resulting in competition for funding and resources, we are increasingly asked to evidence how the work that we can do will provide value for money and change people's lives.

Have financial cuts limited the impact we can make, or are we digging deeper, becoming more inventive, to find new ways to make social history collections more accessible to the public than ever?

How do we demonstrate and communicate the impact and value of social history collections?

**SHCG believes there is a great deal to learn from the successes, failures and insights of each other's work and would like to invite proposals from across the museum and cultural sector that reflect the conference theme.**

**Proposals for sessions should address one or more of the following areas and questions:**

### **Defining impact**

1. What is the impact for participants, museums, collections and visitors of working with partners outside the museum to deliver goals and generate advocacy?
2. Small museum, big impact: Small and voluntary museums may lack the finances and resources of large museums but can be a central part of their communities. What examples are there for small museums making a deep impact?
3. How can social history collections be used to promote social justice and change lives?
4. Should we reconsider the value of stored social history collections? Are there examples of ways to improve their relevance and increase their impact on communities and audiences? What roles do research, rationalisation and collections management have to play?

### **Towards a new methodology**

5. Should social history curators apply processes, techniques and methodologies from other disciplines? Are there examples of where this has worked well?
6. Can there be a standardised, consistent statistical approach to evaluating social impact? How can the long term legacy of the work we do be sustained?
7. At a time of austerity does the social value of our work need to also have an economic value? What creative solutions are there for social history curators to demonstrate the economic impact of our work?
8. What examples are there of using digital media and social networking to help widen and evidence the impact of social history collections?

Please fill in the form below and return it to Jude Holland and Ciara Canning, Conference Organisers **by Friday 24 January 2014**. Contact details below.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Name</b>   |  |
| <b>Organisation</b>   |  |
| <b>Contact details</b>  |  |
| Please indicate how you would like to participate   |  |
| Case study presentation (20 minutes)  |  |
| Interactive workshop (45 minutes)   |  |
| Other format idea: please specify   |  |
| Please tell us why you believe your paper should be included in the 2014 SHCG conference (100 words max)  |  |
|   |  |
| Abstract clearly indicating which theme or themes your paper will explore, and how it will explore it/them (300 words max)  |  |
|   |  |
| Short biography of proposed speaker/s (100 words max)   |  |
|   |  |
| Return to Jude Holland and Ciara Canning <a href="mailto:judithh@ssgreatbritain.org">judithh@ssgreatbritain.org</a> , <a href="mailto:ciara.canning@colchester.gov.uk">ciara.canning@colchester.gov.uk</a> by <b>Friday 24 January 2014</b> |  |
| If you have an idea which you would like to talk through before submitting your proposal, do email us, or call Jude on 0117 926 0680 Ext 311 or Ciara on 01206 282935   |  |

**Please note:** speakers' travel costs can be reimbursed (travel reimbursed at standard fare rate – booked by a cut-off date specified by the committee) and there will be no attendance fee on the day of speaking. Unfortunately we are unable to provide additional fees, subsistence costs or accommodation.