

**CANDIDATE BOARD MEMBERS  
COMCOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2022**

It is with great pleasure we present the candidates to the Executive Board of ICOM International Committee for Collecting (COMCOL) for the period 2022-2025.

Online voting will be open from 9am CET 22 August to midnight CET 30 August. [Link to the voting platform](#) will be shared in the week before the start of the voting. The new board will be presented to the members 2 September 2022 at the online Annual Members Meeting.

The candidates are:

**For Chair:**

Danielle Kuijten

**For Board members in alphabetical order:**

Leen Beyers

Njabulo Chipangura

Ying Ying Lai

Brandie Macdonald

Nara Neves Pires Galvão

Sandra Vacca

## CANDIDATE AS A CHAIR



Surname: Kuijten

Name: Danielle

Country: Netherlands

Date of Birth: 11-01-1971

Title/Position: Acting director | co-curator @ Imagine IC, Freelancer

Institution: Imagine IC + Freelance Heritage Concepting

Website: [www.imagineic.nl](http://www.imagineic.nl)

Website: [www.heritageconcepting.nl](http://www.heritageconcepting.nl)

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

COMCOL's open and critical approach to all facets of contemporary collecting practices, its drive to explore new ways to address current collecting and collection issues, and its inclusive attitude towards all members and non-members, makes me feel at home at this committee. My personal interest lies in the ethics, theory and practice of participatory and contemporary collecting methodologies; In my work I explore the possibilities and limitations of community-based work; I critically research collecting as a act of care in museums and search for new ways to work with networks within the field of heritage. Through different activities I have built a broad international network which I value deeply for it ensures that I always consider the different perspectives and nuances that our work require. Through my application I would like to continue my efforts by developing COMCOL internationally as a platform to exchange and discuss collecting matters in a open and organic setting; a place where young professionals find room to develop their own narratives and get opportunities to make changes to our field; furthermore, with the help of the board and our friends in the field I would like to explore and develop COMCOL's online offerings further to reach and connect with more colleagues (members and beyond). By acknowledging that access should be granted to all, only then we can truly make changes in the field. Connecting more do-ers and thinkers will widen the understanding of the possibilities in our challenging but beautiful field.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*  
Danielle Kuijten holds a MA in Museology from the Amsterdam University of the Arts. She is acting director and co-curator at Imagine IC in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, a pioneer in the field of democratic heritage practices. At Imagine IC she started in 2016 with the co-collection lab. Within a constant changing constellation of collecting professionals from museums and archives ideas of traditional collecting and collections are challenged with concepts of participative collecting, user collections and shared guardianship. Next to Imagine IC, Danielle is also active as a freelancer consulting and creating programs for national and international projects. Because of her extensive experience in the field of participatory collecting methodologies she is a welcome guest internationally for keynotes and workshops on topics of participation, diversity and contemporary collecting.

Danielle has been active in COMCOL for many years, since Kyoto 2019 in the role of chair.

## CANDIDATES AS A BOARD MEMBER



Surname: Beyers  
Name: Leen  
Country: Belgium  
Date of Birth: 21/07/1975  
Title/Position: curator and head of research  
Institution: MAS  
Website: [www.mas.be](http://www.mas.be)

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

As head of the curatorial department of the MAS in Antwerp, Belgium, I am part of a museum which aims to connect local and global culture, with a collection of 500 000 objects which are affiliated with Antwerp, its city and port, with shipping and overseas trade and with Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.

The diversity of the MAS collection and the ambition of the MAS to act as a node in networks and not as an isolated knowledge center with this collection, implies that the MAS deals with many of the contemporary challenges with regard to collections, such as decolonization and restitution, collaboration with communities, contemporary collecting, polyphony in collecting and in registration of objects, significance assessment of collections, relations between material and intangible culture.

Hence, COMCOL is a very interesting network for the MAS and a network to which I want to contribute conceptually and practically. I believe COMCOL can be highly relevant with regard to human rights, peace and decolonization, since international colleagues can meet on an equal base in COMCOL. A priority for COMCOL is attracting new members and more diverse perspectives. Positioned in Belgium, I am involved in both English- and French-speaking networks. I will try to use this linguistic background to widen the COMCOL network.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

Leen Beyers is head of the curatorial department of the MAS museum. She is also curator of the MAS collection 'culture and history Antwerp, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> century'. Her expertise as curator and researcher mainly relates to urban history, migration, food culture, oral history and memory and collection policy. She has a PhD in history and a Ma. in anthropology.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/leenbeyers/>

#### **Recent projects (selection):**

Participative collecting personal heritage and memories WWII, 2021- (ongoing).

Corona: rapid response collecting MAS and City Archive Antwerp, 2020

<https://mas.be/en/pagina/antwerps-corona-archieff>

Significance assessment project Collection Jaap Kruithof 2018-2019

[https://issuu.com/museastadantwerpen/docs/mas\\_collectie-jaap-kruithof\\_2019](https://issuu.com/museastadantwerpen/docs/mas_collectie-jaap-kruithof_2019)

Beyers, L., 2018. Het voorzichtige Huis. Het nieuwe Huis van de Europese Geschiedenis [Review of the House of European History, Brussels]. *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review*, 133(4), pp.121–131. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18352/bmgn-lchr.10612>

Beyers, L. Présentation "Anvers à la carte. Nourrir la ville", Stage de Muséographie de l'Ecole du Louvre et du MUCEM, Marseille, 27 mars 2018.

Exhibition *Antwerp à la carte. On food and the city*. MAS, 2016- <https://www.mas.be/en/activity/5-antwerp-%C3%A0-la-carte>

#### **Advisory boards and memberships (selection):**

Board member ICOM Flanders Belgium

Board member ICOM COMCOL

Member working group polyphony and museums Flanders, 2020-2021

Member advisory board education Department of History, University of Antwerp



Surname: Chipangura

Name: Njabulo

Country: UK

Date of Birth: 27-11-84

Title/Position: Curator of Living Cultures

Institution: The University of Manchester, Manchester Museum

Website: <https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk>

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

I have been a regular COMCOL member since 2011. As a board member I wish to use my experience of having worked as a curator of archaeology at the Mutare Museum in Zimbabwe to develop further knowledge on the practice, theory and ethics of collecting both tangible and intangible collections in museums. I am interested in current debates and discussions around the decolonisation of museum collection from an African perspective. My current research looks at how national museums in Africa continue to reproduce colonial forms of knowledge and of being and at what it means to decolonise the museum practice. Henceforth as a board member of COMCOL one of my main priority would be in advancing the need to connect collections with their points of origins by embracing biographical approaches. This is so because for example from an African context, objects have potency and are treated by indigenous people as living beings which they can touch, smell and taste. These objects constitute a part of an interconnected whole and although these objects may appear mundane within ethnographic classifications, they have individual biographies and carry with them important meanings connected to their ritual and cultural functions located in societies of origin. I was recently appointed curator of living cultures at the University of Manchester Museum and I have a task of connecting living collections with diaspora and or source communities by collaborative engagements.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

I have a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. I am currently working at the University of Manchester Museum as a curator of living Cultures and is responsible for the care of more than 20,000 objects from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, as well as building new research and forming relationships and collaborations. I was previously employed by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ) as a curator in the archaeology department for ten years. I am interested in looking at the empirical ways by which the museum practice in Africa can be decolonised through epistemic and aesthetic disobedience by undoing earlier ways of knowledge production in collection practices and exhibitions. Thus, I have carried out research that looks at how national museums in Africa continue to reproduce colonial forms of knowledge and of being and at what it means to decolonise the museum practice. I have extensively published research papers that looks at ongoing debates around the coloniality of museums and associated knowledge production and representation practices, to imagine a decolonised museum in Africa. Some of my articles are included in journals such as *Curator; The Museum Journal, Journal of Southern African Studies, Development Southern Africa Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage, Museum International, Museum Management and Curatorship* and *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*. He has also contributed articles in books such as *Museums Activism*, Robert Janes and Richard Sandell (eds), London: Routledge, pp. 164-173, and *Research Handbook on Contemporary Intangible Cultural Heritage Law and Heritage*, Charlotte Waelde et.al (eds), Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp.379-398. My first book entitled *Museums as Agents for Social Change: Collaborative Programmes at the Mutare Museum* was published by Routledge in April 2021.





Surname: Lai

Name: Ying-Ying

Country: Taiwan

Date of Birth: 22 February 1959

Title/Position: Professor

Institution: Graduate School of Arts Management and Cultural Policy, National Taiwan University of Arts

Website: <https://acpm.ntua.edu.tw/web/index/index.jsp>

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

Museum is my belief, passion and life-long learning place. Collection is the foundation of museums, but we need to reach out beyond the walls. Contemporary collecting aims to build up the bridge across borders and cultures. I am committed to contemporary collecting that shall engage participation, cross disciplines and socially impactful. After participating at the 2018 Winnipeg Conference, I was confirmed that COMCOL is the international committee that I shall devote myself with pleasure and commitment while facing challenges of tomorrow. In 2021, as a board member of ICOM-COMCOL, I have organized one webinar "Collecting with Care: Ethics in Museum Work, the one out of seven worldwide webinars of the ICOM Solidarity programme initiated by COMCOL and IC-Ethics. It was a great success in Taiwan and well demonstrated the urge for more knowledge about collecting in the region. My future contribution to COMCOL will be, and not limited to, COMCOL Conference and workshops in Taiwan, membership recruit from Asia Pacific museums, promotion of COMCOL through academic writings, teachings, FB, IG, etc.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

LAI Ying-Ying now is a professor at the Graduate School of Arts Management and Cultural Policy, National Taiwan University of Arts. She was active as the Secretary General of the Chinese Museum Association, Taiwan, Director of the Research Centre for Museum Studies based in

National Taiwan University of Arts, Project Director of Museums Link Asia-Pacific, Project Director of Museum News and Perspectives, etc. Being a member of ICOM since 2007, she has served as a Board member of ICOM-COMCOL (2019-2022), ICOMINTERCOM (2010-2016), and a council member of FIHRM, Federation of International Human Rights Museum (2014-).

She served as the Deputy Director at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei and worked over 20 years as a senior curator at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Fluent in Chinese, Japanese and English, she is well connected to the museum world around Asia, namely Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore, etc. Ms. Lai received her Ph.D. degree in art education and art administration from the National Taiwan Normal University. She was trained as an art historian at the Sophia University, Tokyo. Ms. Lai has curated many museum exhibitions for over 30 years, such as the World According to Dada, Gravity of the Immaterial, Labyrinth of Pleasure, etc. She is also the author of many books, *Museum and its Social Significance*, *Contemporary Arts Management, A Reflexive Study of the Taipei Fine Arts Museum's Exhibition (1983-2007)*, *Taiwanese Avant-Garde*, *Complex Art in the 1960s*, et



Surname: Macdonald  
Name: Brandie  
Country: United States of America  
Date of Birth: February 23, 1983  
Title/Position: Senior Director of Decolonizing Initiatives  
Institution: Museum of Us  
Website: <https://museumofus.org/>

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

Serving as a Board Member for COMCOL would be a remarkable opportunity to share my knowledge of decolonial and Indigenous ideology while also learning and building alongside COMCOL members. As an Indigenous citizen of the Chickasaw Nation with ancestral ties to the Choctaw Nation, I am dedicated to advancing the museum field to be more equitable, decolonial, and culturally just. Museums all over the world hold power - and with this power there comes social responsibility to the community that we serve. Transformative positive change is a collective endeavor, one that I believe COMCOL is supporting and that I would contribute towards as a Board Member.



I have had the gift of being affiliated with ICOM/COMCOL for two years. The connections built with members have impacted my mind, heart, and passion. I would listen, learn, and collaborate in my tenure. I would work to find pathways for the larger goals of COMCOL to come to fruition. I would also humbly leverage my experience to support 1) strategic visioning, 2) ethical care and decolonial stewardship of collections and Indigenous resources, 3) building trusted relationships with Indigenous peoples, and 4) support the conversations around developing a praxis for redressing colonial harm.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

Brandie Macdonald's is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation with Choctaw ancestry. Brandie's work focuses on systemic change in museums through the implementation of decolonial theory-in-practice, which centers truth-telling, accountability, and actionable change. She is the Senior Director of Decolonizing Initiatives at the Museum of Us. She is also an active freelance consultant working to support non-profits, museums, education, and Indigenous communities internationally. Her 14 years working in non-profits is based around capacity building through policy, repatriation, and education. She has worked in areas of economic capacity building with Indigenous communities domestically (rural/urban), with intergenerational healing through culture-driven curricula, and in gender and racial equity initiatives in the bicycle industry. Brandie is enrolled in a Ph.D. program for Education Studies at University of California, San Diego. Her research, which aligns with her work as a practitioner, focuses on the sustainable application of decolonizing praxis in museums that enables structural change and cross-cultural movement building. She also holds a M.Ed. in International Education and a B.A in Applied Anthropology. Brandie's a Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow, American Alliance of Museums' Nancy Hanks Award for Professional Excellence recipient, Smithsonian Affiliate Fellow, and is on the Western Museums Association Board.



Surname: Neves Pires Galvão

Name: Nara

Country: Brazil

Date of Birth: 22/June/1977

Title/Position: Director

Institution: Instituto Ricardo Brennand

Website: [www.institutoricardobrennand.org.br](http://www.institutoricardobrennand.org.br)

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

Being Institutional member of COMCOL during 8 years and individual member for the last 2 years has been so inspiring and helpful on making decisions for my daylife work. As a museum professional, to meet and discuss theoretical and practical approaches through all the meetings with colleagues from all over the world, on contemporary and traditional collections, helps to face difficult and work better on it, creating new best practices and methods together. I have been working with private collecting for over 20 years and since 2015 I have been researching the relationship between collecting and performance, and more recently collecting, art market and art politics. As part of Comcol's board, I intend to work together on the further development of the committee. My aim is to contribute to decolonial thinking and practices as well as how to make our collections more inclusive. I intend to be an interlocutor of the committee, especially in south america, contributing to the growth of new members, articulating meetings to exchange experiences and bringing Comcol closer to other Committees with the objective of expanding the horizons of our discussions.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

Currently, I am the Director of the Ricardo Brennand Institute, Recife-PE, counselor at Paço do Frevo museum and Icom Brazil Board member. PhD Student and Master in Anthropology at the UFPE. I research Collecting, Art Market, Gender and Art Politics. Graduated in Social Communication – Journalism at the Unicap. I worked in the Analysis of Cultural Projects at the Fundação de Cultura da Cidade do Recife. I was a Capes scholarship between 2015 and 2017 and also in the Professional Development Program at the Rotary Foundation – Museum and Arts (USA). Organized the 1st International Symposium Collections and Collecting: Practices and Narratives in Contemporary. I have experience in Cultural Management and Production. My last work with comcol was to coordinate the 2021 Comcol Annual Conference "Reimagine Collecting: How Collecting can Inspire The Future, together with the Comcol Chair, board members and other professionals from the Ricardo Brennand Institute.



Surname: Vacca

Name: Sandra

Country: Germany

Date of Birth: 01.09.1986

Title/Position: Project Manager "DOMiDLabs: Making Museum Design Participatory"

Institution: DOMiD e. V. - Documentation Center and Museum of Migration in Germany

Website: [www.domid.org](http://www.domid.org)

*Motivation for my candidature; how I wish to serve and develop the committee and accomplish as a board member:*

For almost ten years, I have been part of an archive and museum founded by migrants that collects & presents migrants' memories, experiences and emotions through everyday life objects, photographs, documents and interviews. This experience led me to reflect on the act of collecting: what is included, what is left out? In this context, I developed a strong interest in ethical practices of contemporary and participatory collecting. How to open up the museum space to more perspectives? What can the role of museums and collections/collecting be within our society? How to collect with care?

COMCOL has addressed many of these subjects. With this application, I would like to contribute to and build on the work done by COMCOL's current board on such matters. COMCOL's open dialogue culture, its activities and fruitful conversations on collecting practices are inviting and inclusive – they reflect values I identify with. Connecting with colleagues around the globe, learning from their experiences is a continuous source of reflection and inspiration. I am particularly interested in furthering the cooperation with other ICOM Committees to tackle overarching museum issues, and in nurturing the growing international network and membership.

*Background/short bio/CV, special competences and interests beneficial for COMCOL and ICOM:*

Sandra Vacca is a museologist and historian who studied in France, the UK and Germany. She started her museum career in Scotland, where she was Curator of the St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum.

Since 2013 she has been with DOMiD e.V., the Documentation Center and Museum of Migration in Germany. Her work involved collecting and working with the collections, conducting interviews, education and outreach, but also co-curating exhibitions, both physical and virtual ([www.virtuelles-migrationsmuseum.org](http://www.virtuelles-migrationsmuseum.org)). Parallel to this, she organized participatory, object-based workshops on migration history for trade union members as a freelancer. Currently she manages the participatory project "DOMiDLabs: Making Museum Design Participatory" which aims at developing design ideas and testing participatory methods for DOMiD's upcoming Migration Museum in Cologne. The project involves members of the civil society as well as international experts and scenographers.

Since the end of 2021 she has been an affiliated board member of COMCOL. Furthermore, she is active within COMCOL Germany, a working group for the German-speaking museum world. She is also part of a team organising the online discussion series "Making museums matter. Rethinking Museum Work", which seeks to rethink museum work in German-speaking countries.