

University Partnerships in Support of Educational Reforms in the Museum Field:

The University of British Columbia's New *Master of Museum Education* (MMEd) Program



Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy
& External Programs and Learning Technologies



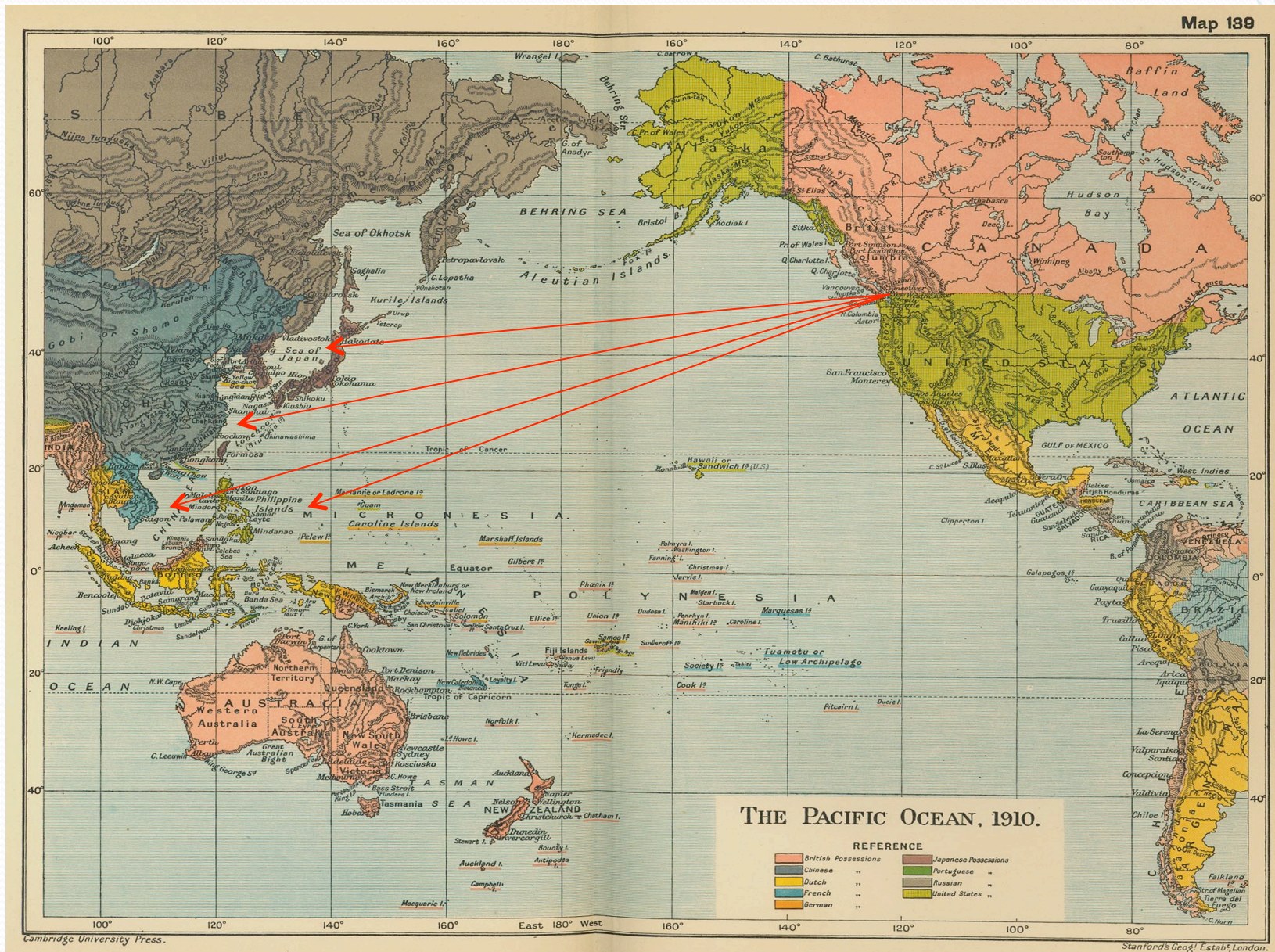


University of British Columbia



- Comprehensive university established in 1908
- 3,500 faculty and 9,750 staff
- Current enrolment is 47,000 students
 - 38,000 undergraduate & 9,000 graduate
- 6,750 international students from 140 countries
- Ranked #36 Jiao Tong (2010) & #30 Times Higher Education (2010-11)
- Member, Universitas 21
- Member, Association of Pacific Rim Universities.

Asia Pacific Focused





Museums: Sites for Education

- Contemporary educational philosophies recognise the importance of informal learning.
- Museums and cultural institutions afford very important and significant opportunities for learning.
- Definitions of museum institutions are diverse
 - Natural and Social History
 - Science – Aquaria, Planetaria, Botanic Gardens, Zoos.
 - Arts
 - Anthropology



The Need for Museum Education

- State of the Field – Professional Status.
- Lack of graduate programs that service the profession.
- Existing grad program in the field focus on museum studies and have narrow focus.
- Huge growth in museums and cultural institutions in Asia-Pacific (ie., in 2010 – 3,000 new museums opened in China alone).
- Recognized need for museum reforms world-wide.
- Need for a join program with Asia-pacific nations if we are to realize reforms.

Museum Studies Programs in Japan

- Curatorial practice certification – offered by over 300 Universities.
- Recent reforms by Ministry of Cultural Heritage are mandating reforms to the University certification programs for curators in Japan.
- Graduate program in Museology – very limited – Tokiwa University, Ochanomizu University, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka (Minpaku – Research Institute)
- The Museology professoriate in Japan needs refreshing.



History of UBC MMEd Program

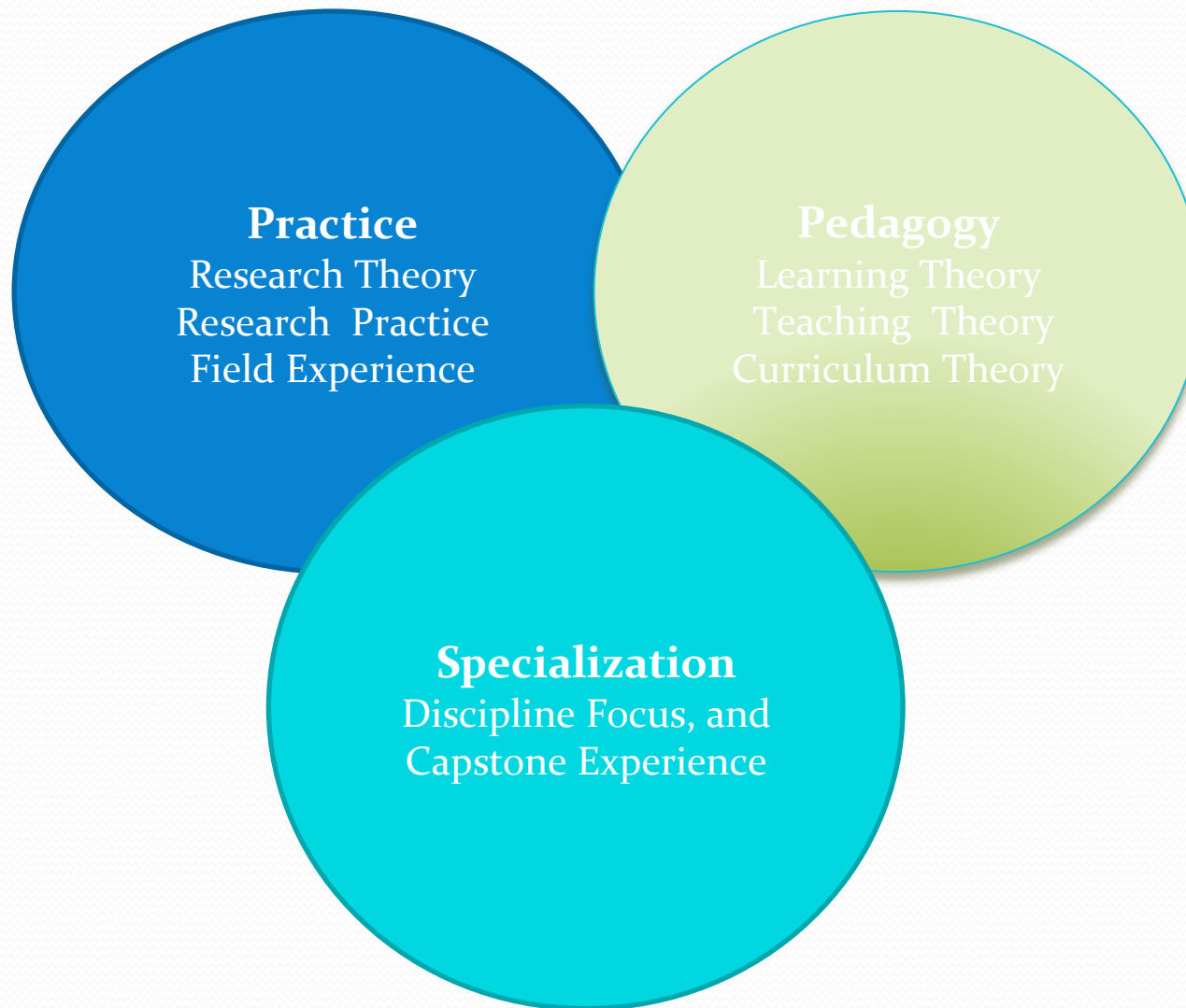
- 2007 – program development started with financial support from UBC – broad consultation with museum community in BC.
- Pilot of program September 2010.
- Commencement of MMEd Program in September 2012.
- Core Philosophy – Reform cannot be realized except through mutual partnership



Program Objectives

- Reconceptualize teaching and learning in non-classroom settings.
- Connect schools, museums, community resources, and research.
- Provide rich field experiences, including internships based in museums, cultural sites, and communities.
- Examine the influences of international perspectives in facilitating learning experiences in the community.
- Develop an international professional network of educators to support museum education reforms.

Philosophical Structure





Course Structure

- 10 Course – 30 credits UBC Masters degree program.
- Current regulations permit 12 credits (40%) to be undertaken in foreign university.
- Courses at Foreign University may be taught in local language as medium of instruction.
- Other models can be imagined.
- Can be completed in 1 year full time study or 2 years part-time study.



Course Structure + electives

Course Code	Title	Emphasis
ANTH 518	<i>Museum Methods</i>	Museum Practice
EDCP 565	<i>Teaching in Museums</i>	Pedagogy in Museums
EDCP 558	<i>Learning in Informal Environments</i>	Learning Theory
EDCP 567	<i>Curriculum Issues and Theories in Museums</i>	Curriculum theory in Museum Education
EDUC 500	<i>Research Methodology in Education</i>	Research Inquiry
EDCP 590	<i>Graduating Paper</i>	Capstone Experience - Research Inquiry
EDCP 598	<i>Field Experience</i>	Professional Practice in Museums



Admission

- An approved Bachelor's degree
- A minimum grade point average (76%) based on third- and fourth-year coursework
- A minimum of two years teaching experience in either classrooms, museums, or other informal learning settings
- Three recommendations from educators and administrators
- Résumé and a 600-word statement of intent

GRASPING THE WORLD

THE IDEA OF THE MUSEUM

Edited by Donald Preziosi and Claire Farago

