

ICAHM Annual Meeting 2022: The World Heritage Convention at 50: Evolution and influence on Archaeological Heritage Management since 1972

Session theme abstracts

Session Theme: Key issues in World Heritage policies and management

Session Organiser: Dr John A Peterson, ICAHM President and Director, Micronesian Area Research Center

Abstract: In its first 50 years UNESCO World Heritage has grown to over 1,000 sites around the globe and from many contexts. While first focussing on the obvious monuments of the European and Mediterranean ‘old world’, World Heritage now embraces intangible cultural qualities and the fusion of nature-culture within single nominations, as well as sites from under-represented geo-cultural contexts. While the reach of World Heritage has expanded, so have its problems. Sites have suffered from overuse and neglect; global tourism has been a double-edged sword in our age of climate crises; local ownership has suffered at the hands of commercial and conflicting interests. Themes of Outstanding Universal Value may need adjustment. Constructive dialogues within ICOMOS around sustainable development goals and regional cultures as well as conflicts are stretching the founding principles for an inclusive, wholistic World Heritage.

Session Theme: Exploring Concepts of Authenticity

Session Organiser: Dr Matthew Whincop, ICAHM Administrative Secretary, Australia ICOMOS Indigenous Heritage Reference Group, and Director of Whincop Archaeology

Abstract: Cultural World Heritage properties must meet the conditions of Authenticity. The Operational Guidelines, however, do not define the concept, but instead make reference to the Nara Document on Authenticity and providing guidance on how it can be assessed (Op.G Paras 79-86; Annex 4 & Appendices). In 1994, the Nara Document sought to expand the ‘Western’, science-based concept of Authenticity to include consideration of a property’s cultural context. In the past 30 years, Indigenous and non-Western cultural traditions have found a greater voice within archaeological heritage management. This session will explore these cultural traditions, within respect to concepts of ‘Authenticity’. It welcomes submissions on ‘indigenous perspectives, tangible and intangible values, nature-culture, traditional management systems, stakeholder consultation, spiritual values, form and design, materials and substance, use and function, location and setting, sustainable development and tourism, and any papers exploring the concept of Authenticity.

Session Theme: Re-visiting the notion of Integrity

Session organisers: Margaret Gowen, Heritage Consultant, PhD Candidate, University College Dublin, Prof. Ian Lilley Emeritus Professor University of Queensland, Dr Christopher Young, Visiting Professor UCL, Heritage Consultant, UK

Abstract: From 2005, all properties nominated to the World Heritage List (both cultural and natural) must satisfy the conditions of integrity; *a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes*” with *”all elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value....”*(Op.G, Para. 87-94). Several expert meetings were held, e.g. on Integrity in Cultural Landscapes (2012) and Visual Integrity (2013) and the topic was also explored in relation to Historic Urban Landscape, and there was also a short practical definition in the WH Nominations Resource Manual (2012, 65-67). However, the promised theoretical and practical analysis never materialised and the note in the margin of Para. 89 of the OP.G. remains. For many, the notion of integrity remains vague and challenging, especially in relation to the principle of “wholeness and intactness”, and it is often confused and blended with the conditions of Authenticity. This session seeks papers that i) review the development of thinking on integrity in cultural heritage conservation, ii) examine the notion of integrity in its theoretical and practical

conservation applications to WH, and iii) suggest ways in which integrity might be better defined in the developed policy context of WH as it faces into the next 10 years.

Session Theme: Climate Change and Integrity

Session Organiser: Dr Will Megarry, ICOMOS Focal Point for Climate Change and Queen's University Belfast

Abstract: Climate change is a significant threat to global archaeological heritage. Directly and indirectly, all archaeological sites will be - to some extent - affected by the changing climate. Efforts to respond to this challenge are gaining pace and ICOMOS has been at the forefront of these, stressing both the risks posed to cultural heritage but also the immense value of culture to climate action. This session will explore this dynamic. It is particularly interested in (but not limited to) submissions on the intersection between climate change and archaeological heritage management and welcomes submissions on the following topics: new and emerging tools and methodologies (for example, digital recording, vulnerability assessment and conservation techniques), place-based adaptation and mitigation strategies for archaeological sites and landscapes, climate communication, archaeological practice and sustainability, understanding the relationship between climate action, justice and equity, and papers identifying potential conflicts and solutions in heritage management and World Heritage.

Session Theme: ICAHM Working Groups and World Heritage

Session Organiser: Nicole Franceschini, ICAHM Emerging Professional

Abstract: The International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) is an active contributor to ICOMOS' role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee. Members of ICAHM contribute to the evaluation of newly submitted nomination dossiers, and in monitoring processes aimed at assessing the State of Conservation of archaeological World Heritage properties around the globe. Additionally, in contributing to the wider mandate of ICOMOS, ICAHM is active participant in several working groups, contributing towards building the work of ICOMOS in mobilising heritage to help tackle global challenges such as climate change and meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. ICAHM also partakes in work on emerging typologies of World Heritage properties, promoting greater representivity and strengthening the participation of underrepresented regions.

Session Theme: World Heritage in Ireland – Strategy and Objectives

Session Organiser: Professor Gabriel Cooney, emeritus Professor of Celtic Archaeology, University College Dublin

Abstract: Ireland has just announced a new World Heritage Tentative List and the UK is reviewing its Tentative List. In addition, the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is drafting a World Heritage Strategy. The Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland is supporting two potential transnational serial nominations; the inclusion of Navan/Emain Macha as a component in the Royal Sites of Ireland serial property and Grace Hill as a component of a transnational Moravian Settlements serial property. This session will explore these important developments and place them in a wider context. How will capacity be created and sustained at national, local authority and community levels to underpin World Heritage activities on the island of Ireland? Can appropriate care and management of World Heritage have a wider beneficial impact on the protection and sustainability of key heritage places? Can we learn and take key messages from the experience of other State Parties to the World Heritage Convention of working within a long term World Heritage strategy?

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