



Seminar
Impact of visitors on archaeological sites
May 16-18, 2023

Participants and abstracts of presentations

Day 1 - May 16, 2023

Session 1: The Impact of Visitors on the Conservation of Archaeological Sites

1

Speaker: M.^a Paz Pérez Chivite

Modality: In person

Title: Conservation measures in the *orchestra* of the Roman Theater of Merida

Presentation language: Spanish

Abstract: The *orchestra* of the Roman Theater of Merida is decorated with an extensive pavement of stone slabs. It represents one of the most attractive points of the monument due to its location and beauty, and therefore receives a large number of visitors. The intervention carried out is a novel work from the point of view of conservation, it includes various analyses for the consolidation by means of nanobacteria and lime mortars. The perimeter has been delimited to be contemplated from the outside and to guarantee its preservation, among other measures.

Profile: M.^a Paz Pérez Chivite has been conservator-restorer of the Consortium of the Monumental City of Mérida since 2005. She stands out for her wide and varied experience as a technician in this institution, dealing with all types of movable and immovable archaeological materials (mosaic, mural painting, stone, ceramics, glass, metals, bone and structures). He performs in situ interventions in monuments and excavations, as well as in the laboratory. From extractions, storage and curative conservation treatments, restoration, emergency actions and exhibitions. As well as design of methodologies and application of preventive conservation protocols and drafting of projects. She develops teaching activities for students of conservation-restoration, within the annual editions of the International Summer Courses of the Consortium of Merida. She actively participates in seminars for the dissemination of the conservation of cultural heritage at national level, and also through specialized publications, highlighting the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM).

She graduated in conservation and restoration in 2006 from the University of the Basque Country and received her PhD in 2016 from the same university, where she presented the thesis "In situ conservation



of the Roman mosaics of Mérida. History and Applied Geographic Information Technologies”, with a cum laude qualification.

<https://www.consorciomerida.org/biblioteca/publicaciones/mosaicos>

2

Speaker: Maria Mertzani

Modality: In person

Title: Visitors’ footprint: mitigation practices

Language: English

Abstract: Monuments are material witnesses of our past; they mark human evolution, spirit and thought. According to Greek legislation cultural heritage is a public good, a responsibility of the state and a privilege for the citizen. In recent times, through the rapid development of the tourist industry, it is inevitable that visitors’ footprint is heavy on the condition of monuments and sites.

This paper will go through a series of monuments and sites in Greece posing different challenges due to their structure and meaning. Methods of monitoring the effect of visitors and due response, relating effects to causes will be presented. The aim is to plan in advance, to mitigate the damage and finally use all sensible tools to provide new options to visitors.

Profile: Maria Mertzani holds a BSc (Hons) in Archaeological Conservation from UCL, an MSc in Protection of Monuments, from NTUA and an MSc in Public Policy & Public Management from AUUEB. Since 2014 she has been the Head of the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. The mission of the Directorate is the development of national strategies and policies for the conservation of cultural heritage, as well as the implementation of large scale, challenging conservation projects. She is particularly interested in conservation policies and strategic planning.

3

Speaker: Alfredo Prada

Modality: Online

Title: Human action as a determining factor in the processes of deterioration of the Altamira cave and its rock art: past, present and prospects for its conservation

Language: Spanish



Abstract: The current conditions of conservation of the Altamira cave are very different from the ones it had before its discovery, where it had a high degree of conservation generated by its stable microclimatic conditions.

This presentation will try to define the most worrying factors in the conservation of Altamira. By way of introduction, a brief overview will be given of the history of the conservation of the cave, highlighting all those processes which, associated with human presence, represent one of the most relevant risk factors for both the conservation of the cave and its rock art.

Finally, some of the preventive conservation measures applied in Altamira will be presented, as well as the lines of research we are currently developing to deepen our knowledge of some of the deterioration factors active in the cave.

Profile: Alfredo Prada holds a Diploma in Conservation and Restoration (specialising in Archaeology) from the Galician School of Conservation and Restoration and a degree in Geography and History from the University of Santiago de Compostela. Since 2006 he has been working as a conservator/restorer at the National Museum and Research Centre of Altamira, where he carries out conservation work related to both the Altamira cave and the archaeological material housed in the Museum. His lines of research are conservation and documentation applied to the conservation of the rock art of the Altamira cave as well as the conservation, restoration and documentation of the archaeological material housed in the Altamira Museum.

4

Speaker: Dina Bakhoum

Modality: In person

Title: Condition assessment survey: a powerful tool for the management and conservation of archaeological heritage sites. The case of the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings (Luxor, Egypt)

Language: English

Abstract: Ancient Egyptian archaeological sites have been for centuries a source of fascination for explorers, travelers, archaeologist, Egyptologists and others. With the massive growth of tourism in Egypt and worldwide, cultural heritage sites are generating high revenues that could be used for the regular maintenance, upkeep, and management of the sites. At the same time, the large number of visitors can negatively impact the site's physical fabric and integrity. This presentation will give an overview of the situation of archaeological heritage sites in Egypt and what is being done to conserve them for future generations. Focusing on the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Bakhoum will discuss the outcomes of condition assessment surveys that she prepared for some of these tombs as part of the Theban Mapping project in the early 2000s. She will present how the impact of visitors can be observed through meticulous in-situ investigations of the tombs and how in turn these condition surveys inform the decision-making process regarding the management of the site and the conservation of the tombs. Finally,



Bakhoum will highlight some of her observations regarding the management of the site over the last two decades since she first assessed these tombs.

Profile: Dina Bakhoum (PhD) is an engineer and art historian, specialising in cultural heritage conservation and management. Since 2000 Bakhoum has collaborated with several Egyptian and international organizations on documentation, research, management, conservation and restoration projects of Ancient Egyptian, Coptic (Egyptian Christian), Islamic and modern built heritage and archaeological sites in Cairo and Upper Egypt. Bakhoum was the Conservation Programme Manager for the project of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in the area of al-Darb al-Ahmar in Historic Cairo, where she managed between 2004 and 2012 the restoration and archaeological projects of several Islamic monuments. Bakhoum teaches on heritage conservation and management and conducts several capacity building courses on the subject. Currently she holds a post-doctoral research position at the Institut français d'archéologie orientale (Ifao) and the Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales (Cedej).

5

Speaker: Alessandro Lugari and Federica Rinaldi

Modality: In person

Title: The risk map of the in-situ mosaic and marble surfaces of the Archaeological Park of Coliseum

Language: Italian

Abstract: During the year 2018, the *Parco archeologico del Colosseo* set on a three-year basis project, the "Risk Map of Pavement Surfaces", with the aim of preserving and monitoring in situ all the floor coverings of the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill. In order to systematically address this methodological approach, a team of archaeologists, architects and restorers created a functional card for the recording of historical-archaeological and archival information, essential to build a hierarchy of interventions in the field, and capable of moving from extraordinary maintenance to a continuous cycle of routine maintenance.

The monitoring tests continued simultaneously with the field activities: consisting in the improvement to better adapt to the recording of all maintenance, cartographic and photographic data. The information collected during the fieldwork revealed the need to be equipped with a tool capable of managing, archiving and synthesizing the mass of data, and led to the implementation of the GIS "Risk Map of the Mosaic and Marble Surfaces". The Information System has been designed for the real needs of professionals and is proving to be a valid tool for the optimization and integration of data with operational activities, with a view to medium- and long-term action and programming.

Profiles:

Alessandro Lugari began his activity in 1986 with Studio Cassio, a workshop that has been active in the capital since 1800. He designs and implements numerous works for public and private clients.





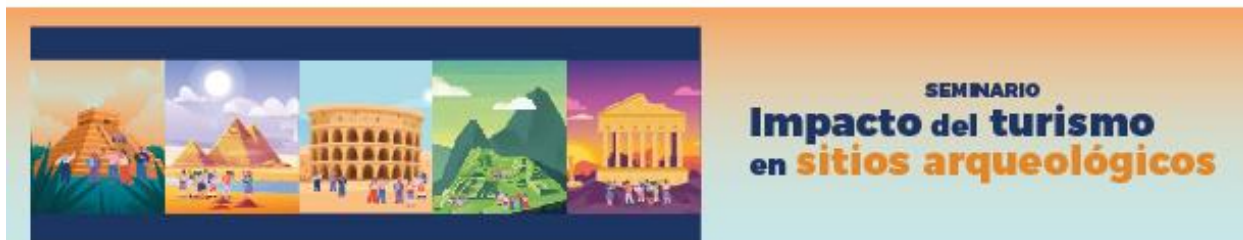
He received a degree in Technologies for conservation of cultural heritage at University of Tuscia in Viterbo and in Conservation of mosaics at 'School of conservation of Mosaics' in Ravenna. He received a degree in Archaeology at the University of Molise. Conservator specialized in ancient mosaics and sectilia with over 35 years of experience.

In 2001 starts to work as a conservator at Opificio delle Pietre Dure in Florence. In the last 20 years, he worked in Soprintendenza Speciale per il Colosseo, il Museo Nazionale Romano e l'Area Archeologica di Roma, where he directs several conservation projects about mosaics, stones and sectilia. He is a founding partner of AISCOM (Italian association of study and conservation of ancient mosaics) in which is a member of the board. He is also a member of the board of ICCM (international committee of conservation of mosaics).

He is the founder of the Pictor Imaginarius Association with which he has organized in the last twelve years an international prize for a contemporary mosaic, in Nazzano, a little village north of Rome.

He is specialized in the construction methodology of ancient mosaics, and he wrote several papers about the topic. He teaches conservation of stones and mosaics at Central Restoration Institute in Rome, and he teaches 'Organization of construction sites for restoration' at University of Rome 'La Sapienza' department of architecture. He is a consultant in several international conservation projects in archaeological sites (Turkey, Israel, Palestine, Greece, North Makedonia, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, GB, among others).

Federica Rinaldi has been an archaeological officer at the Ministry of Culture since 2010, with a scientific curriculum that includes a bachelor's degree, PhD, and a master's degree in management-Promotion-Technological Innovations in the Management of Cultural Heritage. During her academic career she has specialised in the study of ancient floors, designing and curating the TESS database (<https://tess.unipd.beniculturali.it>) until 2010 and publishing monographs and numerous contributions at national and international conferences. In his ministerial role, he managed the protection of assigned territories and directed museums and archaeological areas. From 2020 he has been in charge of the Colosseum with an organisational position. His tasks are, among others, the protection, management and enhancement of the monument, with a focus on scientific research, dissemination, communication and accessibility. He oversees numerous excavation and restoration sites, as well as of planned maintenance: in this sector he has supervised and directed the project of the Risk Map of the floors and sectilia of the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, which is currently in progress.



Day 2 - May 17, 2023

Session 2: The impact of visitors on the management of archaeological sites

1

Speaker: Marta Santos Retolaza

Modality: On-line

Title: Visitors who enhance rather than force heritage conservation and management

Language: Spanish

Abstract: The presentation describes the archaeological site of Empúries, which is a combination of the remains of the ancient Greek city of Emporion and the Roman city of Emporiae. It is located in l'Escala, on the Costa Brava of Girona, in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. It provides important archaeological evidence of the Greek colonial presence in the far western Mediterranean and the important role of this ancient port city in the early Roman presence on the peninsula. The site has a long tradition of archaeological research and protection of its remains and has become an important tourist destination with approximately 150,000 visitors annually, especially during the summer months and weekends. Despite the massive influx of visitors, the archaeological site is well managed with an established educational service and a wide range of guided tours and workshops. However, it is still a challenge to harmonise the management of the available resources, the public programmes of activities and the need to ensure the proper conservation of the remains.

Profile: Marta Santos Retolaza is an archaeologist and curator at the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya-Empúries. With a degree in Prehistory and Archaeology from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, her professional career has been developed mainly in the various archaeological documentation and research projects carried out at this site, both in the Greek city and in the Roman city, although she has also participated in the archaeological study of other sites. She is currently responsible, as coordinator, for the management of the Empúries site of the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya.

2

Speaker: Jane Thompson

Modality: In person

Title: Visitors that empower rather than strain heritage conservation and management

Language: English

Abstract: Through zooming in briefly on some key issues and trends at the archaeological site of Herculaneum and also other very diverse World Heritage sites, the conditions are explored for visitor use



patterns to increase heritage management effectiveness and contribute to sustainable development outcomes.

Profile: Jane Thompson brings together more than two decades of site experience with international-level research, policy work and capacity development initiatives in the cultural heritage sector. As a consultant to ICCROM, she has co-authored many milestones in World Heritage resources, including the 2015 Sustainable Development policy, the 2013 UNESCO Management manual and the 2011 Capacity Building Strategy. In 2014 she became Course Director for Heritage Management at the Bocconi University and was also awarded the first of several senior advisory roles to the Italian Ministry of Culture. In addition to her ongoing role leading the Herculaneum Conservation Project, her expertise in heritage management, sustainable development and impact assessments regarding World Heritage has led her to consult for state parties and UNESCO worldwide, in recent years as team leader of Instead Heritage.

3

Speaker: Rogelio Rivero Chong

Modality: In person

Title: Social development as a strategy for the conservation of World Heritage archaeological sites

Language: Spanish

Abstract: The massive visit of tourists to World Heritage sites has modified in a few decades, the social expectations of the inhabitants around the sites; in such a way that in some cases the heritage site has become a destination and attraction at the same time, which has concentrated the supply of tourist services in the surroundings of the sites and this has increased the social burden with the consequent pressure on the conservation of the cultural and natural values of the sites.

An alternative solution is the implementation of development projects that allow and favour the social, economic and cultural development of the population around World Heritage sites. Capacity building, cultural access and the promotion of cultural diversity are opportunities to influence the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Today, more than ever, it is imperative to convert the massive visitation of archaeological sites into a determining factor for sustainable development, with projects from the social, economic and cultural dimensions framed in a great synergy of projects and all of these within a framework of environmental conservation.

The case of Teotihuacán is the best example of an unbalanced mass visitation that can put at risk the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value for which it was declared a World Heritage Site, as well as the loss of archaeological heritage due to the excessive social burden it has today; For this reason, a master plan for social, economic and cultural development is seen as an alternative solution in the short, medium and long term, not only for the conservation of cultural assets but mainly for the social welfare



of the population, making sure that the Person is at the centre of our attention as the entity that gives meaning to culture and cultural heritage.

Profile: Rogelio River Chong is an archaeologist-restorer and holds a Master’s degree in Mesoamerican Studies from UNAM. In addition, he has alternate studies in Cultural Management and Policy as well as Cooperation for Development. He is a specialist in cultural heritage management, conservation and research. He has extensive experience in the management and management of World Heritage sites; throughout his career, he has worked as a professor at the National School of Anthropology and the National School of Conservation and Restoration, both schools of INAH, teaching archaeological conservation. In his professional career he has coordinated some twenty archaeological conservation projects throughout the Mexican Republic, with special attention to the southeast of Mexico. Among them, the conservation projects of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl in Teotihuacan, the relocation of the tombstone of K’inich Janaab Pakal and the exploration and conservation of the architectural complex of Temple XX, both in Palenque, Chiapas, stand out. He has been a speaker and attendee at academic events in Mexico and abroad and has participated as a curator in international exhibitions. He was director of the Archaeological Monuments Zone of Tajín and is currently the second director of the Archaeological Zone of Teotihuacán.

4

Speakers: Sandra Cruz Flores and Thalía Velasco Castelán

Modality: Online

Title: Communities and the graphic-archaeological heritage in the conformation of the visitor profile in the Sierra de San Francisco, Mexico, and its impact on conservation

Language: Spanish

Abstract: The paper will present the case of the archaeological zone of the Sierra de San Francisco, in which the communities of this World Heritage site – which have a close relationship with the natural environment and with the sites with rock paintings and petroglyphs – are key agents for conservation, as well as for the visitation and development of tourist activities in the area. Although this is a case in which there is significant potential for a sustainable tourism project, there are challenges and risks that must be addressed to continue conserving the biocultural heritage of this area, as well as ensuring that the communities that live in this *sierra* can also benefit significantly from its use for tourism.

Profiles:

Sandra Cruz Flores is a restorer graduated from ENCRYM, with a master’s degree in Anthropology with a specialisation in Archaeology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She has worked at INAH since 1992, where she has been Director of Research and Academic Training at the CNCPC and Director of Site Operations at INAH. She has taught at the ENCRYM and the ENAH. She has specialised in



the integral conservation of archaeological sites with emphasis on graphic-archaeological heritage, strategic planning and heritage management. She has been responsible for integral conservation projects with a social focus in various states of the country. She is currently an Expert Restorer at the CNCPC where she has been responsible since 2010 for the National Programme for the Conservation of Graphic-Rupestrian Heritage.

Thalía E. Velasco Castelán is a restorer graduated from the ENCRYM, with a master's degree in applied history from the National University of Costa Rica. She has worked at the CNCPC since 2003; from March 2016 to December 2022, she oversaw the Directorate of Social Education for Conservation of the National Coordination of Conservation of Cultural Heritage of INAH. With research on the manufacture, conservation and regulation of documentary heritage; in recent years, she has been working on the registration, dissemination and dissemination of cultural heritage conservation.

5

Speaker: María Belén Gómez de la Torre Barrera

Modality: In person

Title: The impact of tourism in Machupicchu pre and post pandemic: community expectations vs. public management, where is conservation?

Language: Spanish

Abstract: Machupicchu is the most important archaeological site in Peru and has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1983 as a mixed property for its exceptional universal value. It is protected as a Historic Sanctuary by the National Service of Natural Protected Areas and as a National Archaeological Park by the Ministry of Culture. Both entities have formed the Machupicchu Management Unit to manage the site in an integrated manner. The number of visitors to Machupicchu has increased significantly in recent years, reaching 1,585,262 in 2019. A study commissioned by the Ministry of Culture in 2015 found that the site's carrying capacity was 2,244 visitors per day, while it received 5,940. However, despite the overcrowding, the satisfaction rate for foreign tourists was 93.5 per cent and for domestic tourists, 91.3 per cent in 2019. Douglas Comer's study proposed alternatives to reduce the number of visitors and protect the site, but faced opposition from different actors such as the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, the District Municipality of Machupicchu, local communities and tour operators, whose economic interests were threatened. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a sharp decline in the number of visitors, but in 2021 there was a 71.1% increase compared to the previous year, with 461,120 visitors. The pandemic provided a unique opportunity to reconsider the management of the site and reduce the negative impacts of tourism.

Profile: María Belén Gómez de la Torre Barrera is a Peruvian archaeologist with an extensive academic background in cultural heritage management and sustainable tourism. She has specialised in conservation



of movable property and museography, management and conservation of immovable cultural heritage, sustainable tourism management, disaster risk management and reduction in World Heritage sites, and analysis of domestic and international policy, among other subjects.

Her professional career has focused on the public management of cultural heritage, where she worked at the National Institute of Culture of Peru and later at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru. She was director of the General Directorate of Archaeological Heritage of the Peruvian Ministry of Culture and is currently part of the specialised public investment team of the General Directorate of Tourism Strategy of the same Ministry.

In addition to her work in the public sector, Gómez de la Torre is also involved in university teaching, academic research, contract archaeology, and various consultancies. His interests include research, cultural heritage management, cultural tourism and sustainable development, conservation of movable and immovable heritage, national and international comparative cultural legislation, among other topics related to the management and social use of cultural and natural heritage.

6

Speaker: José Antonio López Mira

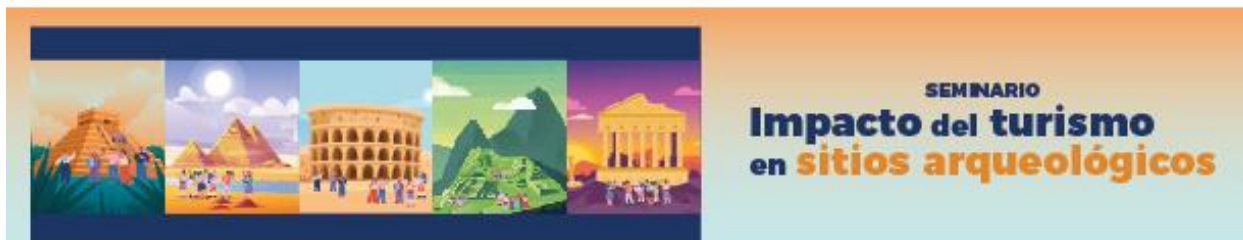
Modality: Online

Title: Management, conservation and enhancement of rock art and its landscapes in the Valencian Community. The compatibility of social, cultural and sporting activities

Language: Spanish

Abstract: The caves, shelters and places with rock art in the Valencian Community, being recognised as an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC) by the Spanish Historical Heritage Act of 1985 and, subsequently, by the Valencian Cultural Heritage Act of June 1998, have the highest level of heritage protection that exists, justified both by their extraordinary cultural value and by their secular fragility. All of this, together with their exceptional and universal nature, led to their inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 5 December 1998, as part of the Rock Art of the Mediterranean Arc of the Iberian Peninsula candidacy.

Cave art also has an added value: the landscape in which it is located, with which it generates a symbiotic duality. In fact, its location in these environments is one of its most charming defining features and, at the same time, one of the most challenging aspects from the point of view of its management, conservation and enhancement. For a long time, the isolated location of the ensembles in mountainous and rural areas, increasingly less frequented, proved to be one of the best ways of protecting the property. Now, the popularisation of the mountain as a recreational space where different social, cultural and sporting activities can be practised, makes it necessary to develop complementary measures to the existing regulations to guarantee the conservation of the art in the current context of the growing socialisation of this environment.



Profile: Dr. José Antonio López Mira is an archaeologist with extensive experience in the field of management and protection of cultural heritage and tourism. He has developed his career at different levels of public administration. Since 27 July 2015, he has been the Head of Territorial Service of Culture and Sport in the Territorial Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport of Alicante, under the Ministry of Education, Research, Culture and Sport of the Generalitat Valenciana. Previously, he held the post of Senior Archaeology Technician in the same ministry for seven years and worked as Municipal Technician of Culture and Archaeology in the City Council of Callosa d'en Sarrià for more than a decade.

Dr. López Mira is the author of several publications related to the management of cultural and tourist heritage, including La Rábida - La Fonteta. Un yacimiento arqueológico milenario, El Arte Rupestre del Arco Mediterráneo de la península Ibérica. 20 years on the Unesco World Heritage List and Cave Art in the Valencian Community. Management Plan. In addition, he has participated as a tutor and teaching collaborator in different university master's degrees related to heritage management. Dr. López Mira has also coordinated modules on archaeological and ethnological heritage in the University master's degree in Heritage Management, organised by the University of Alicante and town councils in the Valencian Community.

7

Speaker: María Paula Alvarez Echeverry

Modality: In person

Title: Signage and carrying capacity tools for the construction of the good use and conservation of rock sites in Colombia.

Language: Spanish

Abstract: From Altamira to Machu Picchu, all over the world there are examples where archaeological values have been put at risk by inadequate visitor management. This paper seeks to present the case of La Chaquira, an archaeological area in San Agustín, Huila, and La Lindosa, a protected archaeological area in Guaviare, Colombian archaeological rock sites where the management of visitors and the implementation of signage has made possible at various times the evaluation of the sites, the establishment of agreements between communities with diverse interests and the implementation of strategies aimed at their conservation.

Profile: Restorer of movable cultural property from the Universidad Externado de Colombia, specialist in conservation of stone materials from ICCROM, and master's degree in management of heritage sites from the University of Turin. Research Professor at the Faculty of Heritage Studies at the Universidad Externado de Colombia, associate researcher at ICANH, and director of the Corporación Proyecto Patrimonio. With more than 24 years of experience in the study and intervention of cultural property, she has participated in various processes of research, conservation and planning of monuments, archaeological sites and protected areas in archaeological sites such as La Lindosa, Pueblito, San Agustín, Tierradentro and



Facatativá and cities such as Bogotá D.C., Medellín, Pereira, New York (USA), Oaxaca (Mexico), Berlin (Germany) and Siem Reap (Cambodia). His research and publications illustrate processes of documentation, diagnosis and conservation of rock art heritage, pre-Hispanic sculpture and monuments in public spaces, as well as issues related to the management of archaeological sites.

8

Speaker: M.^a Ángeles Querol

Modality: In person

Title: The involvement of the local community in the design, interpretation and maintenance of archaeological parks

Language: Spanish

Abstract: After reviewing the historical definition of Archaeological Park, which in Spain began in 1986, the institutions traditionally involved in its design and maintenance are analysed, in a movement that goes from the administrations to the local communities or people; a radical change in this movement is proposed, so that it is the local community itself that assumes the importance of the site, demands its opening to the public and takes care of its maintenance, and the results that could be expected from such a revolution are analysed, in the form of a utopia.

Profile: María Ángeles Querol has been professor of prehistory in the Faculty of Geography and History at the Complutense University of Madrid for more than 40 years and is currently professor emeritus. She also held several positions as Deputy Director General of Archaeology (1985-1988), President of the Archaeological Commission of Andalusia (1998-2001), and Coordinator of the Cultural Heritage Cluster of the Moncloa Campus of Excellence (2013-2018). She has been responsible for the design and implementation of the bachelor's degree in Archaeology and the master's degree in Cultural Heritage in the 21st century: management and research.

Her lines of research have focused on human origins, feminist archaeology, professional archaeology and the management of Cultural Heritage. On this last subject she has taught for 20 years and has published works such as “Manual de gestión del Patrimonio Cultural” (Akal, 2020, second edition) or “El patrimonio inmaterial” (Libros La Catarata 2014).

She has been awarded the EAA European Archaeological Heritage Prize in 2015, the Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts in 2019 and the National Prize for Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage in 2022, the latter two awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Spanish Government, all in recognition of her professional career in the field of Cultural Heritage.



Day 3 - May 18, 2023

Session 3. The Impact of Visitors on the Interpretation of Archaeological Sites1

1

Speaker: Pilar Fernández Colón

Modality: In person

Title: Atapuerca, model of interpretation of archaeological cultural heritage

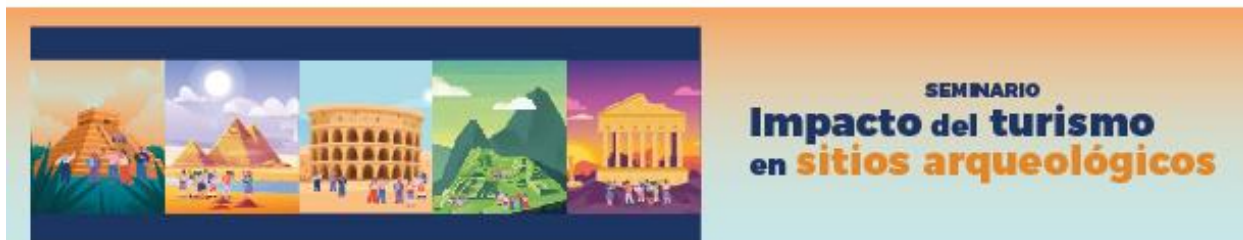
Language: Spanish

Abstract: The Atapuerca site is located in the Atapuerca mountain range, 15 kilometres from the city of Burgos (Spain). It is a set of archaeological and paleontological sites of great value for the scientific study of human evolution, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000. The hundreds of thousands of remains recovered since the beginning of its systematic excavations in 1978 range from 1.4 million years old to Roman times. Atapuerca has contributed milestones to world science such as the discovery of new human and faunal species.

Atapuerca is not only exceptional for the scientific information it generates, reflected in hundreds of publications of the highest prestige. It has also created an interdisciplinary management model with the socialization of knowledge as a primary objective. And it has shared its scientific and cultural potential with the surrounding populations, in which it has promoted sustainable development. In 1991 the site was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, the highest level of protection for cultural heritage in Spain. The international scientific recognition received after the discovery of human remains in the Sima de los Huesos in 1992, and in the Gran Dolina in 1994, generated a popularity that made it necessary to initiate in 1998 a service of guided visits to the sites. The particularity of the Atapuerca visit is that the public can enter the site and learn about its history and the history of its discoveries through the resources offered by the monitors, but they do not have direct access to the movable cultural heritage in situ, which avoids its impact. Along these lines, interpretative infrastructures have been created to complete the understanding and significance of the site both in the nearby towns and in the city of Burgos, where an ad hoc museum exhibits more than 250 originals representative of the rich heritage of the Sierra de Atapuerca.

Profile: Conservator-restorer in charge since 2006 of the Laboratory of Conservation and Restoration of Archaeological and Paleontological Cultural Heritage at CENIEH (National Centre for Research on Human Evolution, Burgos). Graduated from the School of Conservation and Restoration of Madrid, specializing in Archaeology. Studies of Chemical Sciences at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Master Expert in Preventive Conservation in Museums and Exhibitions at the University of Alcalá de Henares.

He has worked and collaborated with museums such as the Museum of Human Evolution (Burgos, Spain), the Regional Archaeological Museum of the Community of Madrid (Spain), El Bardo (Algeria), the National



Museum of Georgia (Republic of Georgia), the National Museum of Kenya, or the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Archaeological Museum of Ibiza and Formentera (Spain); and in institutions such as the Max Planck Museum of Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany) or the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Algiers 2 (Algeria). It is worth mentioning his professional work in the field during the excavation campaigns of Plio-Pleistocene sites such as those of the Sierra de Atapuerca (Spain), El-Kherba (Algeria), Dmanisi (Republic of Georgia), or those of El Sidrón, Pinilla del Valle and Cuesta de la Bajada (Spain).

2

Speaker: Thabo Kgomommu

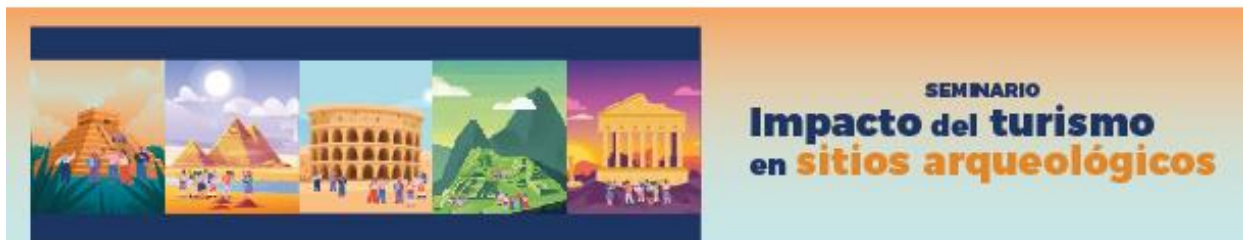
Modality: Online

Title: Conservation and use of archaeological sites in South Africa's Protected Areas (National Parks): working with descendant communities

Language: English

Abstract: Many national parks in South Africa are home to archaeological sites including ruins of ancient civilizations. These national parks by design protects archaeological sites in fenced off areas thus only allowing access through strictly controlled arrangements. There are many of these sites where descendant communities take an active interest to engage and make use for different reasons including spiritual and other forms of social uses. The sites are also important for tourism use and require balance to be created in ensuring that the different types of uses also support the sustainability of conservation of the sites. This paper will present the different type of uses and how SANParks work with descendant communities and other stakeholders in ensuring that all allowed uses are aligned with conservation sustainability while supporting the needs of descendant communities and other interests such as research.

Profile: General Manager for Cultural Heritage at South African National Parks. He has 23 years' experience in heritage management attained in various institutions. He has worked in the exhibitions department of Robben Island Museum, as Curator and Heritage Manager for Mogale City Museums, as Provincial Manager for the South African Heritage Resources Agency, and as Deputy Director for world heritage at the South African Department of Environment. Has experience in museums, heritage sites, world heritage, community and stakeholder management, evaluation of heritage impact assessments, heritage management planning, heritage policy development and heritage tourism and education. He also has six years of experience as a part time lecturer for heritage and museums management at the University of Pretoria.



3

Speaker: Andrea von Vacano Montenegro

Modality: Online

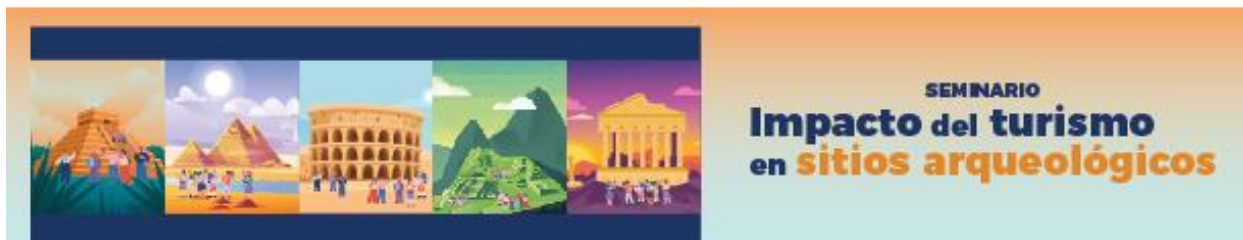
Title: Impact of the Aymara new year festivity in the conservation and reinterpretation of the archaeological site of Tiwanaku, Bolivia

Language: Spanish

Abstract: Tiwanaku has been an archaeological site that has been forgotten for a long time, however, in the year 2000 it was declared a World Heritage Site before UNESCO. The maximum expression of this culture is reflected in the civic-ceremonial centre oriented towards the cardinal points, built with impressive ashlar carved with precision and composed of several architectural structures connected to each other. Since the mid-twentieth century, by researchers and curators, and in the last 15 years, due to the political situation, its value and importance have been progressively vindicated. In 1991, as a result of several investigations and the interest of the communities near the site, the "Aymara New Year" began to be celebrated. This is a very special day that coincides with the winter solstice and the "rebirth" of the new agricultural cycle. The ceremony consists of receiving the birth of the sun at dawn on June 21, for this they wait all night outdoors, offerings are made to both the Sun God and the Pachamama (mother earth) and receive the first rays of sunlight passing through the door of the Temple of Kalasasaya. The event has become a multitudinous act over the years, mainly for Bolivians, but it has also spread to neighbouring countries and around the world. The increase in visitors is exponential when comparing the number of annual visitors and the number of visitors to the site in a single day. The ceremony itself takes place on the pyramid of Kalasasaya, having also the burning ceremony near the most important archaeological pieces such as the Sun Gate and the Ponce Monolith. This situation presents us with a complicated dichotomy between the need for knowledge, dissemination and visitation of archaeological sites for their conservation, as well as the absorption capacity of visitors to the archaeological site. Likewise, the importance of the appropriation of heritage by the surrounding population, such as the understanding that intangible heritage is definitely dynamic, but at the same time the dangers that reinterpretation of the sites themselves brings to history, culture and the sites themselves.

Profile: Andrea von Vacano Montenegro is an Architect from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés - Bolivia, with a master's in architectural Restoration and Conservation from the Univ. de Alcalá de Henares - Spain. United Nations Fellow for the course "Cultural Projects for Development" – ILO Turin – Italy, as well as Fellow of the Carolina Foundation for the Program "Cultural Heritage Management", Madrid, Spain.

International Consultant for development projects based on cultural heritage to boost sustainable tourism, experience making contact and building relationships with both stakeholders and funding institutions. Management and elaboration of cultural tourism projects, cataloguing, conservation, management plans and heritage impact assessment for international cooperation institutions such as ICCROM, IDB, AECID, CAF, WBIInternational, ONG Ricerca y Cooperazione, World Monuments Fund.



4

Speaker: Terry Little

Modality: In person

Title: Valorizing rock art with communities in Kenya and Nigeria

Language: English

Abstract: Rock art, often found in remote, exterior environments without adequate protection, is one of the most vulnerable and at-risk types within cultural heritage. Conserving heritage in these conditions is not easy. Since first working with communities living next to rock art sites in Kenya in 2007, I have observed that walls, fences, and other barriers often have little impact in deterring vandalism or destruction of rock art sites. On the contrary, these physical barriers, apart from their often-ugly appearance, also disturb or interfere with any spiritual or cultural link that communities might have with this ancient heritage. Without that link, communities have less incentive to care for the heritage, which therefore becomes more vulnerable to damage. This paper looks at challenges, successes and failures in defining values – social, cultural, economic – of rock art heritage in two vastly different sites: the Bakor monoliths in southeast Nigeria and paintings on Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria, Kenya.

Profile: Terry Little, advisor to TARA – Trust for African Rock Art and Adjunct Senior Lecturer in heritage studies at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaira, Nigeria, is the manager of the ongoing project, “Preservation of Nigeria’s Rock Art Heritage: From Cross River to Jigawa and Bauchi”, supported by the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, and he has led other community-focused rock art projects in Chad, Malawi, Niger, Uganda, and Tanzania. Founding member of the Rock Art Network, spearheaded by the Getty Conservation Institute and ICOM-CC Working Group Coordinator (2020-23) for Murals, Stone and Rock Art.

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Speaker: Heather Hurst

Modality: Online

Title: Site protection and cultural heritage engagement at San Bartolo, Guatemala: Mapping the future of a remote site within the Maya Biosphere Reserve

Language: English

Abstract: The archaeological site of San Bartolo is located within a remote region of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Petén, Guatemala. San Bartolo’s ancient murals depicting creation stories and the earliest known



writing (~300-100 BCE) characterize beliefs of human-forest interactions and the centrality of corn cultivation that would be essential to Maya culture and statecraft during the next 1,500 years. Twenty years after initial site discovery, the ongoing conservation and management of San Bartolo and its rare murals offer particular challenges and opportunities due to its location in the mixed-use Biosphere. This presentation summarizes a new initiative engaging local forest communities and contemporary Maya to contribute to the production of knowledge and to integrate local values into the future management of the San Bartolo cultural heritage site.

Profile: Heather Hurst has participated in twenty years of fieldwork in Mesoamerica, including the sites of Bonampak, Copán, Holmul, Oxtotitlán, Palenque, Piedras Negras, and Tikal, with research interests including artists' materials and practice, architecture, and conservation. Pairing illustration, archaeology, and materials science, she has focused her research on the outstanding corpus of murals at San Bartolo, Guatemala, from 300-100 BCE. Through this interdisciplinary approach, Hurst has earned the accolades of a MacArthur “Genius” Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work has been published in National Geographic and Science, and exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Gallery of Art, and LACMA. In 2018, Hurst became the director of the San Bartolo-Xultun Regional Archaeology Project, an international, multi-institutional collaboration. She is currently Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Skidmore College, New York.

6

Speaker: Manuel Gándara Vázquez

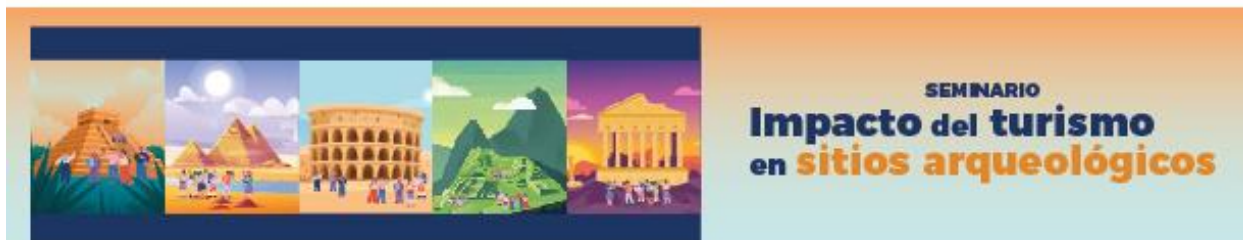
Modality: In person

Title: Tourism: predator or ally? Heritage interpretation as a preventive conservation strategy

Language: Spanish

Abstract: Heritage spaces, in general, and world heritage sites, in particular, are places of enjoyment and learning which attract, in some cases, millions of visitors yearly. The potentially harmful effects of this “touristification” or massive tourism include “tourist erosion”, that sometimes results in real, physical erosion; sometimes is of a symbolic order, altering their vocation and turning them into open air public markets for all sorts of products and services.

Today we know that these problems arise from insufficient strategic planning: one that did not consider the wellbeing and perspective of the local communities. This is, without doubt, a key element. But there are other relevant ones, like the one we address in this talk: heritage interpretation. This is a task that aims at creating personal connections with heritage, as well as to promote a culture of conservation. We will illustrate these ideas with a project in progress at a Mexican World Heritage site, Xochicalco. We attempt to transform a threat, predatory tourism, into an opportunity to generate new allies for heritage preservation, by combining traditional and digital means, using a communication strategy centred on people.



Profile: Ph.D. in Anthropology, Ph.D. in Design and New Technologies, with doctoral studies in Philosophy of Science. Trained originally as an archaeologist, he has conducted research in major Mexican archaeological sites. He has published extensively on archaeological theory, philosophy of science and heritage interpretation. He was director of the National School of Anthropology and History of the National Institute of Anthropology and History. Pioneer in the use of digital technologies in museums, in which he also introduced thematic interpretation of cultural heritage. Currently he teaches at the Graduate Program in Museum Studies at the National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography.