

P07. "Here's looking at you, kid" – Practices of Observation in the Documentation and Recording of Cultural Heritage

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The famous sentence of the 1942 movie ‘Casablanca’ uses a common form of salutation, implying a statement of appreciation and admiration, an affirmation of how good it is to see someone. But it was also used as a goodbye, as a last toast before separation. Greeting and saying goodbye are also two interconnected moments in much of the documentation of our heritage: we look at it in detail and record its features, usually only when a threat of loss or deep transformation is about to occur.

This preservation, by any form of documentation and recording, is increasingly relevant, as the death of cultural heritage happens inexorably all around us, buildings are eroded, demolished, or transformed beyond recognition, archives are lost to time, and memories fade. To fight the loss of cultural heritage, documentation practices, namely preservation by the digital record before destruction, have become increasingly necessary and part of the skills necessary in heritage management, also opening the opportunity for increased citizen participation. As we discuss new visions about heritage, we should consider how new technologies have transformed how we look at the cultural heritage and how they should support and enrich, not substitute other traditional recording forms.

In this panel, we aim to discuss practices of cultural heritage documentation from different approaches, be it through practical inventory fieldwork, art, photography, or interview, and using either traditional approaches or new technologies. Ultimately, it leads us to question the hierarchies of value established by those who are ‘allowed’ to intervene in the cultural heritage and those who, from the outside, still find ways to preserve their heritage.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage; Documentation; Inventory; Citizen-Science.

Thematic lines: Epistemological and Research Challenges in Heritage; Networks of Heritage Researchers and Research; Citizen Science; Heritage Training / Skills Profile; Interdisciplinary and Challenges to Academic and Vocational Education; Heritage Practices; Heritage Management; Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainability.

Short bio: Leonor Medeiros is an archaeologist based in Lisbon, Portugal, and an assistant professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the New University of Lisbon (NOVA FCSH). With a Ph.D. in Heritage and Industrial Archaeology from Michigan

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Technological University (USA), and a Master in Heritage Management from the Ironbridge International Institute of Cultural Heritage (UoB, UK), she has been focused on research in the fields of heritage inventories, documentation of built heritage and cultural landscapes, in connection with post-industrial communities. She is an integrated researcher at CHAM – Center for the Humanities, a member of the Board of TICCIH – The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, and President of APAI - Portuguese Association of Industrial Archaeology.

Marina Évora is an assistant professor at the Department of Social Sciences and Management of the Open University in Lisbon (UAb) and an archaeologist who has worked in contract archaeology. Has completed a Ph.D. in Archeology in 2016 from the University of Algarve, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences; a Master in Archeology in 2007 from the University of Algarve, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences and a Degree in History in 2001 from Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa. She is a Researcher at ICArEHB - Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behavior at the University of Algarve and at CEG - Global Studies Center in Open University. Published several articles in specialized magazines. In her professional activities, she interacted with several collaborators in co-authoring scientific works.

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