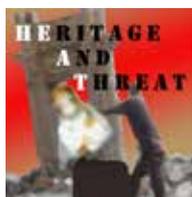


# Heat

## Heritage and Threat



## Project Summary

Today's world contains a host of phenomena and situations that constitute threats to objects, sites and practices deemed "heritage" by stakeholders. Yet there is still a dearth of systematic information about this broad palette of threats, a dearth that constitutes a gap in our general knowledge and an obstacle to the purposeful activity of governments and institutions at times of crisis evaluation and intervention or post-crisis reconciliation. The HeAT project aims to address this situation through:

- systematic analysis of threat to and through heritage in different geocultural locations;
- the production of a sophisticated cross-cultural typology of threat in the form of practical manuals for use, among others, by governmental organs, global organisations, NGOs and peace-keeping forces;
- small and thought-provoking exhibition(s) to popularise academic findings.

The project is collaborative, transnational and interdisciplinary. It brings together scholarly results and insights gained from research into four different localities and situations:

1. the Near East between crisis and development;
2. Poland and memory in times of change;
3. Romania and "knowledge" registers that save/create or destroy/erase objects, sites and practices;
4. Italy and construction that inevitably endangers traces of a past that is considered important.

The research directly addresses the aims of HERITAGE PLUS in that it brings together multidisciplinary European academic projects but at the same time includes collaboration with partners who are stakeholders in the processes of heritage creation and protection. It also exposes the results to non-European review. Its outcomes transfer academic insights and analysis from academia into the public arena by providing reliable resources for numerous stakeholders in situations of threat to heritage as well as raising public awareness of the heritage issues at stake in our global community.

## Application and impact

The proposed project consists of collaborative, international and interdisciplinary academic research that includes NGO partners and is predicated on

- a) the production and transfer of useful and reliable practical knowledge for non-academic circles (manuals and exhibitions)
- b) a review process for academic findings that includes non-academic partners
- c) a long-term vision of awareness-raising for cross-cultural heritage issues through training courses for museum professionals, the general public (Open University) and university students from, for instance, Area Studies programmes, history, museology, cross-cultural studies, etc.
- d) pooling of European and non-European expertise in cultural heritage and the threats to it and intrinsic to it.

Although the findings of the project will contribute to scholarly insights and discussions in the field of heritage studies, the concrete results of the project are meant primarily for non-academic circles and thus aimed at closing the gap between heritage research and heritage policy, decision-making and knowledge. The proposed manuals of threat will be of benefit to:

- policy makers and the military faced with strategic decisions as to their involvement in conflict zones or in post-conflict peace-keeping activities
- non-governmental/non-state actors, such as Blue Shields, and their involvement in heritage protection
- entrepreneurs entering a heritage-sensitive environment

The proposed exhibition(s) will

- Raise awareness among the general public in Europe (and possibly in China) of the issues at stake in situations that threaten their and other's cultural heritage
- Provide reliable knowledge of heritage issues that derives from scholarly analysis and without ideological bias.

The potential value of this research in the future concerns two major areas:

1. cooperation and inclusion of non-university institutions into academic study

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2. development of educational programmes for students, professionals and the general public

Therefore the future potential of the research includes

- Development of strong partnerships between academic and non-academic communities. For instance Blue Shields (Associated Partner) and the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia's (Associated Partner) involvement in the project is crucial to an exchange of ideas and insights between different but involved communities. In the future, these partnerships can lead to cooperation in teaching programmes, thus including practical, on-the-job experience and knowledge in academic study.
- Development of strong partnerships between museums and universities within a European setting. Access to the newly formed COBBRA group of European museums via our cooperation with Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek (Associated Partner) can be of enormous benefit not only for the proposed exhibitions but also for the future of a programme of training in cross-cultural heritage for museum professionals. Again, important practical and on-the-job knowledge is transferred to the academic community and academic insights are transferred to and discussed

with other stakeholders in the debates around heritage.

- The development of online and GIS research tools for landscape and heritage management in collaboration with the Politecnico di Milano, Centro per la Conservazione e Valorizzazione dei Beni Culturali
- Wide and contents-rich communication strategy developed in cooperation with the Laboratory of Enhancement and Communication of Archaeological Heritage –ArcheoFrame, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione, Milan
- Important cross-cultural exchanges and opportunities to talk with colleagues from other cultural backgrounds instead of about them. Fudan University's (Associated Partner) involvement in and support of the project provides the European partners with an important non-European view of the issues under discussion. Fudan University is also already collaborating with the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen in a pilot programme of teaching in cross-cultural heritage. The course, which also includes workshops in Shanghai and Beijing, can profit from the result of the proposed project.

The above-mentioned partnerships and practical outcomes of the project will provide a knowledge base for European society and an opportunity to take practical issues into academic study at all levels. The results disseminated through the media of manuals, exhibitions, websites, and publications will widen European society's understanding of the issues at stake when cultural heritage is threatened and inform policy-makers, stakeholders and professionals' future decisions when dealing with the possibilities for mitigation of such threats. The collaboration between the partners will involve an agreement to be negotiated. Intellectual property rights related to results arising from the project shall belong to the party/ies having generated the results in accordance with their intellectual contributions. The parties concerned shall agree on arrangements for the best possible protection of the results on a case-by-case basis. Any digital output will fully respect any existing copyright claims and will not reproduce the work or materials of other parties without their prior permission. All human informants will be protected and anonymised where required and any information they provide will not be utilised without their prior permission.

## Coordinator

University of Copenhagen (DENMARK).

## Participants

- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University (ROMANIA),
- Ośrodek Badań Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej (POLAND)
- Università degli Studi di Bologna (ITALY)
- Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek museum (DENMARK)
- Danish Blue Shields National Committee (DENMARK)
- Fudan University, Shanghai (CHINA)
- Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia (ITALY)
- IULM university, Archeoframe Lab (ITALY)
- Politecnico di Milano (ITALY)

## Dates

01/05/2015- 30/04/2018

## Budget

Total project funding: € 464.062,00

Funding awarded: € 353.540,00

## Subject area(s)

Threat – memory – identity – conflict – taxonomy

## Project website

<http://ccrs.ku.dk/research/projects/heat/>