



NIKU Conference: Call for Papers

The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) and partners are pleased to announce the conference “Critical Digital Heritage 2020”, to be held at Gamle Museet in **Oslo 27th-28th of May 2020**.

There exist great expectations in today’s society regarding recent technological developments and how the resulting digital data and media will contribute in defining new and extended possibilities and functions for the use, preservation and experience of cultural heritage. The potential of digital data capturing methods, data analysis and visualisation technologies is increasing and manifold, comprising among other aspects the creation of more efficient cultural heritage management tools. This development calls for dynamic and interactive arenas for stakeholder interaction and improved and accessible ways to disseminate knowledge on the past to today’s population.

The CDH2020 conference aims to address digital heritage from several perspectives. We will discuss the methodological and technological state-of-the-art concerning data acquisition, documentation, visualisation, and communication of digital cultural heritage and investigate which new opportunities open up through digital cultural heritage. At the same time, the conference will apply a critical perspective to digital heritage and ask how digitisation affects the way we perceive, value and share cultural heritage.

The conference is divided into four sessions:

1. **Digital heritage methodologies**
2. **Heritage communication, museums and the storytelling of the digital**
3. **People-centred digital heritage**
4. **Digital heritage management**

We urge contributors to demonstrate how the sessions’ topics may be discussed through a variety of methods and theoretical approaches from different disciplines. Contributors should specify which session their proposal addresses and how it relates to the session call text (provided below).

Format

The conference will include paper presentations and digital posters. Presentations will be given in English, and each speaker will have 20 minutes at their disposal plus additional time for discussion. Instead of conventional posters, we welcome “posters” in a digital format, e.g. videos, slide shows, 3D visualisations etc. Creative takes on the digital poster format are encouraged.

All proposals should include the author’s name, affiliation, address, a brief autobiography/CV and an abstract of approximately 200-300 words.

Proposals should be sent to cdh2020@niku.no **before January 12th, 2020**. Proposals will be reviewed by the session organisers.

Session 1: Digital heritage methodologies

Session Organisers: Knut Paasche (NIKU) and Wolfgang Neubauer (LBI-ArchPro)

During the last years newer technological and methodological developments have demonstrated a considerable number of case studies located in different environments throughout Europe. Many of these have remarkable results in the fields of large scale, efficient, non-invasive technologies for the discovery, documentation, visualization and interpretation of Europe's archaeological heritage.

As an example, non-destructive documentation of cultural heritage, archaeological and historical monuments are conducted in many countries. The latest technology for archaeological prospecting together with leading-edge magnetometer and georadar systems have made serious advances.

Archaeology has travelled from finding individual postholes to discovering entire archaeological landscapes. In addition, large-scale application of airborne laser in combination with terrestrial scanners and photogrammetry have opened new effective ways of recording and documenting cultural heritage.

This session will demonstrate methodological and technological state-of-the-art methods for digital data acquisition, registration, documentation, visualization, and communication of digital cultural heritage.

What current newer digital recording, documentation and communication solutions are available, and how can these contribute to enhancing research, cultural heritage management, and knowledge generation and dissemination?

Session 2: Heritage communication, museums and the storytelling of the digital

Session Organiser: Åmund Resløyken (Heritage Experience Initiative (HEI), University of Oslo)

New technologies provide new possibilities, as well as challenges, for communicating culture and the past. Some technologies give us platforms for disseminating stories modelled on the age-old technologies spoken and written word, while others, like film, sound, AR, VR and other immersive technologies, provides new ways of communicating.

In museums, and the wider heritage sector, new ways of communicating heritage have been given a lot of attention in past years. New possibilities for implementing digital technologies in exhibitions, providing extensive on-site information through smartphone apps, webpages and AR, the possibility of "visiting" heritage sites and museums from home through VR, all give new possibilities for dissemination of knowledge. In what way does this affect notions of heritage?

In this session we want to address, in the widest possible sense, how digital technologies function as storytelling devices in communication of heritage. How does different technologies affect the stories being told? In a wider sense, how is the communication of heritage affected by "the digital"? And how does the notion of "heritage" affect the digital?

Session 3: People-centred digital heritage

Session Organisers: Stuart Jeffrey (Glasgow School of Art) and Siân Jones (University of Stirling)

Over the last three decades, digital technologies have become firmly embedded in cultural heritage practice. Digital recording technologies have been deployed to document historic objects, monuments and landscapes, and sophisticated 3D modelling and AR/VR/XR techniques have been used to create powerful visualisations and reconstructions of the past. Until relatively recently the use of these technologies has been firmly embedded in the domain of highly trained professionals. However, the increasing availability of powerful, yet highly usable, consumer grade hardware and software has meant that many digital technologies have become ubiquitous and accessible. Unsurprisingly, these are rapidly being taken up in community heritage projects. Nevertheless,

expert forms of knowledge, and technically-focused approaches, still tend to govern their use. As a consequence, the application of these technologies can validate and reinforce existing authorised heritage discourses regardless of who is using them, ossifying notions of what is significant and what is insignificant. Furthermore, the way that digital technologies are used to tell stories about the past continues to be constrained by a self-referential technological vernacular.

In this session, speakers are asked to examine what it means to shift from technologically-oriented digital heritage practices to people-centred ones. People-centred approaches have begun to utilise digital technologies as a means to co-produce records of heritage places, produce diverse forms of significance, and generate localised heritages. Yet there are still many barriers to their long-term, sustainable use in participatory, collaborative practice and knowledge sharing. Speakers are encouraged to explore new approaches to integrating the social and the digital, as well as the role of digital technologies in support of collaborative processes and practices. In doing so, they are asked to consider how people-centred, participatory approaches can contribute to digital heritage practice and visa versa? Could participatory methods be a means to liberate digital heritage from the constraints of technological fetishism and shift the emphasis from the digital product, to process and practice? Can digital technologies be used by heritage professionals and community stakeholders to co-create multi-vocal sustainable heritage futures?

Session 4: Digital heritage management

Session organisers: Torgrim Guttormsen (NIKU) and Joel Taylor (Getty Institute)

Digital Heritage Management

Session organisers: Torgrim Sneve Guttormsen and Joel Taylor

The session will address several management-related topics regarding digital heritage. Since the advent of institutionalized heritage management during the 20th century, society and the public life that this management has served have gone through considerable changes. The technological breakthroughs that marked the 21st century have become drivers for lifting heritage management into new territory.

In this session, contributors will offer perspectives on the following questions:

What technological innovations have transformed the heritage management sector? Have these innovations always been positive? How will new technology and digital solutions contribute in defining future heritage management practices? Are our expectations unrealistic when considering how the management of the past "in a brave new world" will use new technology and digital solutions?

What significance do various forms of digital heritage have for discussions about education, political decision-making, definitions of power, and commercialization / popularization of the past? How has born-digital heritage influenced the way we manage heritage?

How does digital heritage create new forms of management? How have preservation practices produced new types of (intangible/tangible) heritage.



UiO : HEI: Heritage Experience Initiative

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