Progress report

UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures

Period: 09/2017 – 08/2018
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Recognizing the duty of ensuring the transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage...

UNESCO World Heritage Convention 001972

Official postcard of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University. Illustration: Pernilla Frid.
Team

Dr Cornelius Holtorf, Professor of Archaeology and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University. Director of the Graduate School in Contract Archaeology (GRASCA).

Dr Anders Högberg, Professor of Archaeology at Linnaeus University. Special fields of interest are heritage studies and human cognitive evolution. Associated researcher in Heritage Futures, research on nuclear waste as future heritage.

Ulrika Söderström, PhD student at GRASCA – The Graduate School in Contract Archaeology at Linnaeus University. Special field of interest is use of heritage and archaeological knowledge in sustainable urban development.

Affiliated members

Dr Sarah May, based at University of Swansea, special field of interest is the way children are used in future discourse. Post-doctoral Research Associate in the Heritage Futures project.

Dr Claudio Pescatore, Nuclear Engineer, previously at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD, special field of interest is the preservation of memory. Affiliated Researcher at Linnaeus University.

Helena Rydén, Assistant to the Chair, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linnaeus University
Introduction

Launched in 1992, the UNESCO Chair Programme addresses pressing challenges in society. The chairs serve as thinktanks and bridgebuilders between human communities, civil society, academia, and policy-making, generating innovation through research, informing policy decisions and establishing new teaching initiatives. In 2017 Linnaeus University was awarded a UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures. This is one of eight UNESCO Chairs in Sweden and the only one in the area of culture.

The Chair is dedicated to developing professional strategies concerning the role of heritage in shaping the future. We ask questions such as: how does specific heritage of various kinds contribute to improving future society? What heritage needs to be preserved for the benefit of future generations? When will these future generations live and what can we know about people’s needs and desires in that future? How can different domains of heritage learn from each other regarding practices of future-making?

In this report, we document the progress made by the entire team over our first year of activities. Please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions.

Cornelius Holtorf, Chairholder

Map of the Chair’s activities 09/2017 – 08/2018.
Activities

Training

Card game “The thing of the future” organised by the Heritage Futures project during the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly in New Delhi, India, with Cornelius Holtorf and Sarah May participating. (11–15 December 2017)

Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on “What does UNESCO World Heritage tell future generations?” to students at Linnaeus University in the course “Cultural Heritage and Communication”. (23 Jan 2018)

Workshop by Cornelius Holtorf on heritage futures for the “Unique historical Kalmar and Öland” regional development project group, Linnaeus University, Kalmar. (1 Feb 2018)

Workshop on heritage futures by Cornelius Holtorf for the Steering Group of Kalmar Castle. (12 April 2018)

Workshop on heritage futures by Cornelius Holtorf for the Heritage Team of Kalmar County Council. (13 April 2018)

Card game on heritage futures (“Framtidsspelet”), organised by Cornelius Holtorf during the World Heritage Week in southern Öland in collaboration with the Research project Experimental Heritage and Mörbylånga Municipality. (16 July 2018)

Future workshop launching the ‘Time Travel to the Future’ role-play commissioned from Kalmar County Museum, featuring presentations by Cornelius Holtorf and several experts and pedagogical museum staff. (28 August 2018)

Unesco Sverige @Unescosverige - 3 juli

“Framtidens skildring av det ökade samhället är inte att hålla önskemålet länge” - @UnescoChairNU. Cornelius Holtorf om hur kulturavdukenheten kan hjälpa framtidens generationer att förstå oss och de budskap vi lämnar efter oss.

UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures @UnescoChairNU

Interview i Byggnadskultur blogg.lnu.se/unesco/blog/1,... @Unescosverige

Sarah May @Sarah_May1 - 26 juni

Welcome to Twitter @UnescoChairLNU - proud to be affiliated with this exciting programme

Official twitter account of the Chair @UnescoChairLNU

Card-game during World Heritage Week in southern Öland. Emma Rydnér, World Heritage Coordinator, Mörbylånga Municipality
Research

Academic research is an important priority of every UNESCO Chair. Members of our Chair carried out substantial research in the area of Uncertainty, which is one of four themes in the AHRC-funded Heritage Futures research programme led by Professor Rodney Harrison at University College London, U.K. (https://heritage-futures.org).

In 2017/18, among other activities, this research comprised empirical work by Sarah May investigating heritage futures in relation to the new World Heritage site of the Lake District, and by Cornelius Holtorf and Sarah May visiting the Intermediate Nuclear Waste Storage facility near Vlissingen in the Netherlands, enquiring about the links between art, heritage and toxic waste. The project also brought us to India for several topical presentations and activities as part of the ICOMOS General Assembly in New Delhi.

During the entire year, Ulrika Söderström, who is part of our Graduate School in Contract Archaeology (GRASCA) and supervised by Anders Högberg, worked on her Doctoral research which aims at improving our understanding of how heritage and archaeological knowledge can be applied in practice to meet the aims of Agenda 2030, in particular goal no.11 Sustainable cities and communities.

Publications


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Perpetual Uncertainty
Tuesday, September 18th, 2018

Daniel Lindskog was commissioned to take photographs of the amazing Perpetual Uncertainty exhibition recently shown at Malmö Art Museum and curated by Ele Carpenter.

Here is his amazing photoessay!

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Official blog of the Chair blogg.lnu.se/unesco
Conferences/presentations


Workshop on “Heritage Futures” featuring a joint presentation by Cornelius Holtorf and Sarah May entitled “Heritage Futures, Nuclear Futures” held at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. (2 Nov 2017)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Remembering loss: some thoughts about sustainability and resilience in heritage” at the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory Conference (CHAT) conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands. (3 Nov 2017)

Workshop organised by Sarah May on “Water Futures: Deep Futures” as part of the Heritage Futures project in Lake District, UK. Cornelius Holtorf participated actively. (14–15 Nov 2017)

Participation by Cornelius Holtorf and Sarah May in a knowledge café on “Building sustainable Heritage futures in the Anthropocene”, during the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly in New Delhi, India. (11–15 December 2017)


Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Beyond Romantic Nationalism – A New Paradigm for Heritage?” at the Center for Archaeology, Columbia University, New York, USA. (23 Feb 2018)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “What do I do as a UNESCO professor?” for students on Linnaeus University’s Campus Kalmar. (28 Feb 2018)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Heritage Futures and the Future of Heritage in Europe” as the second in a series of lectures organized by the Flemish support center for cultural heritage FARO and the Flemish heritage network Herita under the theme of TEIM: Thank Europe it’s Monday and linked to the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. Palace on the Meir, Antwerp, Belgium. (5 March 2018)

Presentation by Claudio Pescatore at Linnaeus University, Campus Växjö, entitled “When the rocket is up – retrievability and memory of radioactive waste internationally”. (27 April 2018)

Presentation by Anders Högberg and Cornelius Holtorf on “Nuclear Waste as Cultural Heritage”, two roundtables chaired at the Nuclear Culture Roundtable on Memory and Future at Malmö Art Museum. Sarah May participated actively as a rapporteur. The exhibition Perpetual Uncertainty – art and radioactive activity provided the context of this event. (4 May 2018)

Inaugural Lecture as UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures by Cornelius Holtorf entitled “Why does UNESCO need a future archaeologist?” Linnaeus University, Kalmar. (15 May 2018)

Keynote lecture by Cornelius Holtorf, entitled “Die Rolle der Archäologie in der Gesellschaft: Überzeugungsarbeit in der Gegenwart oder Planen unserer Zukunft?” at the Annual Meeting of the Netzwerk Archäologie Schweiz dedicated to the theme “Was hat Archäologie mit mir zu tun?”, Neuchâtel, Switzerland. (21 June 2018)
Public panel discussion chaired by Cornelius Holtorf in Karlskrona, entitled “Addressing hope in heritage planning”. The event was related to the celebrations of 20 Years World Heritage designation of the Naval City of Karlskrona. (5 July 2018)


News items on the official website of the Chair

lnu.se/en/unescochair
Other activities

Participation by Cornelius Holtorf in a regional meeting on culture with a talk on “The role of cultural heritage in societal development towards the future” at Kalmar County Council. (13 October 2017)

Cornelius Holtorf, Anders Högberg, and Daniel Lindskog submitted an entry into the Arch Out Loud competition for Designing a Surface Marker for a Geological Repository of Nuclear Waste at the site of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. (22 October 2017)

Participation by Cornelius Holtorf in a regional dialogue about national cultural policy on behalf of Folk och Kultur, Kalmar. Making futures and making connections across sectors. (6-7 Nov 2017)

Participation by Cornelius Holtorf in the Second Coordination Meeting of Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO and UNITWIN Networks/UNESCO Chairs related to the UNESCO Culture Sector, UNESCO Headquarters Paris, France. (23-24 Nov 2017)

Discussion on the work of the Chair between Cornelius Holtorf and Mats Djurberg, General Secretary of the Swedish UNESCO Commission. (14 Feb 2018)

Participation by Cornelius Holtorf in a meeting for members in ICOMOS International Committees followed by a seminar on cultural tourism, organised by ICOMOS Sweden in Stockholm. (14 Feb 2018)

Conversation between Cornelius Holtorf and Malin Pettersson Öberg about art, archaeology and nuclear power, Vallentuna Cultural Center in the context of the exhibition Precarious Spaces Radiant Days. (22 April 2018)

Participation in a planning meeting by Cornelius Holtorf, Anders Högberg and Claudio Pescatore, for a cross-sectoral workshop on Societal Memory, National Swedish Archive, Stockholm. (26 April 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf presented the work of the UNESCO Chair for the Department of Cultural Science, Linnaeus University Kick-off meeting, Öland. (24 August 2018)
KULTURARVSSEKTORN ÄR DALIGT FÖRBEREDD FÖR FRAMTIDEN

I år är det "Europas för kulturarv". Detta EU-utnämnda ovanlig markeras av flera nationella och internationella fungeringsråd och projekt, samt nationella och internationella organisationer.

Men en studie visar att nyligen genomfört visar att kulturarvssektorn är ännu förberedd för framtiden och dess utmaningar. Det framtida visar att det inte finns några definierade framtidssektorer.

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Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Höberg in the magazine Respons (nr. 4, 2018, 7-8). The Cultural heritage sector is not prepared for the future. (August 2018)
Media

Interview with Cornelius Holtorf on a Swedish heritage blog on history, sustainability and the well-known tourist attraction High Chaparral... Hann Ljungberg was responsible for the interview and later wrote that the answers provided new perspectives. (October 2017)


Interview with Cornelius Holtorf on the National Swedish Radio Channel P. Cultural News programme ("Kulturnytt"): The future is absent in the cultural heritage sector, despite the slogan of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 "Our heritage: where the past meets the future". (13 March 2018)

Interview with Cornelius Holtorf by Morris Wikström for a programme on the National Swedish Radio Channel P1 on Barsebäck's stories and nuclear waste in the future: When Barsebäck is torn down - what about the story and story of the Swedish industrial heritage? And how should we warn future generations about nuclear waste? (5 June 2018)

https://sverigesradio.se/sida/avsnitt/1104669?programid=767

Interview with Cornelius Holtorf in the magazine Byggnadskultur 21.8, by The Swedish Organization for Building Preservation (Sveriges byggnadsvårdsförbunden). (June 2018)
List of abbreviations

ICOMOS - International Scientific Committee on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage

UNESCO - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

COVRA - Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval
UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures

How is the future being shaped through

• cultural and natural heritage legislation and management,
• the 1972 World Heritage Convention,
• creative reconstructions of lost heritage,
• markers about final repositories of nuclear waste,
• or carefully designed messages sent into outer space?

When is the future that such practices work towards?
How can we determine what will benefit future generations?
What is the legacy we will leave behind?

The UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures will work with heritage practitioners in finding answers to such questions and in developing their own professional strategies for the future.

Follow our work:

lnu.se/en/unescochair
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What is a UNESCO Chair?
UNESCO Chairs were introduced by UNESCO in 1992. Their aim is to promote international cooperation between Universities and networking in key priority areas of UNESCO. There are today about 700 UNESCO Chairs in the world.