Progress Report

UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures

Period: 09/2022 – 08/2023
About the UNESCO Chair

The UNESCO Chair Programme addresses pressing challenges in society. The Chairs serve as think tanks and bridge-builders between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research and policy-making, generating innovation through research, informing policy decisions, and establishing new teaching initiatives. The UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University is one of eight UNESCO Chairs in Sweden and the only one in Sweden in the area of culture.

The concept of 'Heritage Futures' stands at the intersection of past legacies and tomorrow's possibilities. How can our present-day conservation practices shape the world of tomorrow? It’s not just about safeguarding relics of the past, but about making them resonate in an evolving world full of challenges. How can futures literacy and foresight help us design the heritage of tomorrow? We develop strategies that can enhance how heritage shapes the future and build global capacity for futures thinking among heritage professionals.
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Training Resources

What are Heritage Futures and why do they matter? The Chair provides free training resources online to enhance futures thinking and futures literacy in relation to culture and heritage. We collected examples in a leaflet, presented on several occasions during the year.

Find out more at https://lnu.se/en/unescochair (under Training Resources). We will be continuously updating and improving these resources.
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 EMILY HANSCAM, Researcher at Linnaeus University. Her projects apply techniques from the digital humanities to explore ongoing entanglements between nationalism and archaeological discourse, working towards developing a better critical understanding of the past for negotiating the global future.

DR ANDERS HÖGBERG, Professor of Archaeology at Linnaeus University. Special fields of interest are heritage studies and human cognitive evolution.

Not in the picture:

ELENA MARIA CAUTIS, PhD student at the University of Ferrara in Italy, within a program in Environmental Sustainability and Wellbeing. She visited the Centre for Applied Heritage and the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University for spring 2023.

DR CLAUDIO PESCATORE, Affiliated Researcher. A nuclear engineer, previously at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD, special field of interest is the preservation of memory.

DR SARAH MAY, Affiliated Researcher. She is currently working as a heritage consultant. She is particularly interested in the way children are used in future discourse.

DR LEILA PAPOLI-YAZDI, Affiliated Researcher. She researches the dirty heritage of modern civilization; garbage, waste, and consumption.

HELENA RYDÉN, Assistant to the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures.

DR ANNILISA BOLIN, was a Researcher at Linnaeus University until February 2023.

ULRIKA SÖDERSTRÖM, PhD student at Linnaeus University, is in the final stages of her doctoral research investigating how futures are created in modern urban planning and development using cultural heritage as a resource and the consequences these practices can have on social sustainability.

DR GUSTAV WOLLENTZ, Director, The Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning and Creativity (NCK), and Affiliated Researcher. He is a consultant for ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) with special focus on foresight.
Introduction

This report covers the sixth year of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University. Among the highlights of the year were several global initiatives which our Chair could influence with its distinctive perspective on heritage futures that becomes ever better known. This included the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development MONDIACULT 2022 in Mexico City at the end of September. The conference established the significance of culture as a global public good and called for the inclusion of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda.

One of the key contributions of futures thinking to global cultural policy is the notion of temporal interculturality, i.e. the mutability of culture and cultures over time, which was the topic of a panel I chaired at the Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago de Chile in December 2023.

The potential of cultural heritage for addressing the future challenges of climate change was addressed in an expert workshop to which I was invited at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, at the end of March 2024. During the subsequent months, I was writing up my ideas about the "Climate Heritage Paradox”—using the future for rethinking global heritage management (p.13).

A topic that remains significant in our work is memory across generations related to repositories of nuclear waste. In this context, Sarah May co-edited a new volume on Toxic heritage, and Anders Högberg and I published a paper on "Nuclear Waste as Critical Heritage" that in some ways constitutes a conclusion of our decade-long research on these issues. Among the research projects listed below is a range of exciting new empirical research Chair members have been involved in over the past year.

There were also several opportunities to meet and collaborate with other UNESCO Chairholders from different corners of the world. These are important occasions as they pave the way for global collaborations in new areas.

Please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions!

Cornelius Holtorf, Professor of Archaeology, and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures

Map of the Chair’s activities
09/2022 – 08/2023 (selection)

Cornelius Holtorf at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, MONDIACULT in Mexico City in September 2022.

The conference was attended by more than 100 ministers of culture, but also representatives from over 150 intergovernmental organizations, UNESCO partners, civil society, and some of the other UNESCO Chairs in the field of culture.
Activities

Education and Training

» Anders Högberg gave a lecture on heritage futures and futures literacy for the incoming PhD students in the PhD programme on Global Humanities at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linnaeus University (9 September 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf gave an invited keynote lecture entitled “The Future Through World Heritage” and ran a futures workshop, assisted by Professor Peter Stone, UNESCO Chair on Cultural Property Protection and Peace, Newcastle University, UK, for an audience of ca 80 managers and other officials (incl 15 online) of the 33 World Heritage properties in the UK, for the 2022 Annual Conference of World Heritage UK at Jodrell Bank World Heritage Site, UK (4 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented a lecture on “Cultural Heritage, Wellbeing, and the Future” for students attending the course “Heritage-Based Post-War Urban Reconstruction in Ukraine” organized by the Invisible University for Ukraine at Central European University (26 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf offered feedback to a project initiative by Climate Students LNU entitled “Sustainable wellbeing through reduction of carbon footprint at higher education institutions” (29 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented about a field archaeology of the future for participants in the post-excavation seminar of the Gamla Skogsby training dig at Linnaeus University, Sweden (3 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf contributed to a course in challenge-based learning near Trento. The course was organised by the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU), where learners, teachers and researchers cooperate with society and businesses to solve real-life challenges.

The challenge was put together by Francesca Odella of the University of Trento and focused on the future of cultural objects, Italy (8 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf held a seminar on “Heritage Futures” for students at various levels at the Heidelberg Centre for Cultural Heritage, University of Heidelberg, Germany (25 November 2022).

» In a joint effort of developing our picture book WOW! further, Pernilla Frid and Cornelius Holtorf held an experimental workshop on futures thinking with the staff of the Dept of External Relations at Linnaeus University (February 2023).

» The team of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures assembled on the same screen to run a Socratic Dialogue with Bill Wei. The topic was the question “Which personal history have I used (or will use) to help future generations solve which important challenges?” (14 February 2023).

» The team of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures assembled and attended together: Visual Literacy Workshop on Imag(in)ing the Future, run by Vicky Karaiskou, UNESCO Chair on Visual Anticipation and Futures Literacy, based at the Open University of Cyprus (13 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented a lecture on “Conflict Resolution, Conflict Prevention and Cultural Heritage” to the Student Society Linnaeus Kultura at Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden (26 April 2023).
Research

The past year saw a lot of new empirical research. Here are some highlights.

Future-making in Fukushima

Cornelius Holtorf undertook with his colleague Tomas Nilsson of the Faculty of Economics a week-long field visit to Tokyo and various places in the Prefecture of Fukushima investigating strategies of storytelling, remembering, and future-making in relation to the threefold 2011 Eastern Japan-disaster, consisting of a major earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami and a large-scale evacuation in response to a nuclear meltdown of several reactors of the Fukushima Daiichi powerplant. We visited the main exhibitions and met representatives of Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO), the Fukushima Innovation Coast Promotion Organization (FIPO), the University of Fukushima, and the Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association, among others.

Future-making in Araby, Växjö

A new project investigating young people’s thoughts about the future started in 2022. Funding is via the municipality of Växjö, under the project management of Anders Högberg. Gustav Wollentz conducted interviews with young people in the Araby district in Växjö, Sweden. The project collaborated with several actors in the Araby district.

Garbology

Leila Papoli-Yazdi and Omran Garazhian did garbological research at the illegal waste deposit site in Marhult. Their research is part of the project Naturkulturerservatet Marhult of artist Timo Menke. More than 32000 tonnes of waste have been accumulated in this place during the last decade. The team classified, documented, and mapped various categories of waste in the landfill in order to explore the long-term patterns that resulted in its formation.

Foresight review for ICCROM

Gustav Wollentz’ work for ICCROM included a literature review to support joint programming for heritage research and innovation associated with the EU Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (ARCHE) project. He reviewed a wide range of publications produced by governments, research institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, professional associations and private organisations. These were subsequently analysed to identify existing, emerging and anticipated global trends, considering various time horizons. The study’s findings outlined key trends and issues, both established and emerging, and assessed their implications for the wider heritage sector. Cross-cutting themes and potential opportunities for action within the sector were also highlighted, along with key considerations for policymakers, researchers and organisations. While primarily aimed to inform the work of ARCHE, the study’s implications extend beyond this, shedding light on how other sectors employ Strategic Foresight and how heritage could similarly benefit.

Digital Humanities

Emily Hanscam continued to explore potential applications of methodologies from the digital humanities, and was named research associate with the Lnu initiative for Digital Humanities (DH). She contributed to Lnu’s part of the EU-funded EUUniWell initiative and worked to develop Lnu resources in DH to contribute to Huminfra, the national Swedish research infrastructure for DH. She coordinated the application for Lnu to rejoin DARIAH, the European-wide DH infrastructure, and is currently coordinating the national Swedish application for DARIAH membership in addition to managing the transferring of Lnu resources to the DARIAH platform. As a member of the Institute at Lnu, she organised several research initiatives to strengthen Lnu’s role in iSchools, the worldwide organisation of institutions dedicated to aspects of research and teaching about information. She is currently co-organising a multi-institutional grant application to study artificial intelligence which will be submitted to Horizon Europe in early 2024.

Heritage in urban planning

Ulrika Söderström is in the final phase on PhD on heritage in urban planning. Ulrika’s research is about archaeological heritage as a resource in socially sustainable urban development for the future. Her Doctoral research is supervised by Anders Högberg, with Cornelius Holtorf having responsibility as the internal examiner. On 21 April 2023, Ulrika completed the final seminar ahead of her disputation, with Björn Nilsson, Head of the Department of Cultural History at the University Museum of Bergen, Norway, acting as her seminar opponent.

The new coastal sea defenses in Fukushima. In the background the nuclear power station Fujushima Daini which could be prevented from meltdown (April 2023).
Publications


Conference Presentations/Lectures

» Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högberg co-organised and co-chaired a session entitled "Archaeology as the Study of the Future" and co-presented two papers at the 28th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Budapest, Hungary (5 September 2022).


» Cornelius Holtorf attended a roundtable organized by the EAA Community for Climate Change and Heritage (CCH) held at the 28th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists held at Budapest, Hungary (3 September 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf took part in his first meeting as member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum — Leibniz-Research Institute for Archaeology, Mainz (22–24 September 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf gave an invited keynote lecture at KULTURKRAFT 2022, a major cultural conference in Scandinavia, held in Copenhagen, Denmark. He talked to an audience of almost 200 professionals on “Culture as transformation – how culture and heritage can address the future” (7 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf attended a webinar “Time Travels to the Future” organised by the Bridging Ages network for applied heritage and time travels, with participants from Germany, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, and Turkey (10 October 2022).

» Papoli-Yazdi, L. presented on Drowning in garbage: Garbage, community, and archaeology. Stockholm, Stockholm University, Department of Archaeology (12 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf co-organised and co-chaired a session entitled "Archaeology as the Study of the Future" and co-presented two papers at the 28th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Budapest, Hungary (5 September 2022).

» Papoli-Yazdi, L. presented on Drowning in garbage: Garbage, community, and archaeology. Stockholm, Stockholm University, Department of Archaeology (12 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented on his work priorities and current developments in ‘heritage futures’ and ‘future archaeology’ for members of the Committee on Sustainability and Strategy at Kalmar Municipality (17 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf introduced the Knowledge Cube on Campus Kalmar, Linnaeus University, about the work of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures, for participants of a meeting of the Network for Sustainability and Environmental Guidance at Swedish universities (20 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented a talk entitled “Does humanity need culture and heritage for addressing the climate crisis? (Update on a global movement)” at the first Climate Crisis Dialogue held at Linnaeus University, Campus Kalmar, Sweden (25 October 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf attended virtually some of the conference “50 Years World Heritage Convention: Times of Peace, Conflict and War” discussing the future of the World Heritage Convention held at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, Germany (4 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf gave a presentation entitled “Why sustainably managing the past requires anticipating the future” at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy (14 November 2022).


» Ulrika Söderström presented a lunch lecture on “En gestaltad livsmiljö: Kulturarv som resurs för en socialt hållbar stadsutveckling för framtiden”, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linnaeus University, Sweden (14 November 2022).


» Anders Högberg participated in a panel discussion at “Höstmötet”, an annual conference arranged by the Swedish National Heritage Board in Stockholm (16–17 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf gave an invited lecture entitled “Nuclear waste and other cultural heritage of the future” for students and researchers arranged by the Flagship Initiative Transforming Cultural Heritage and the Heidelberg Centre Culture Heritage, University of Heidelberg, Germany (24 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf attended the conference “Remembering the Past in the Future” arranged by the Expert Group on Awareness Preservation of the Nuclear Energy Agency at the OECD at the Tabloo Visitor Centre in Dessel, Belgium. He organised and chaired a session on “Conceptualising Remembrance Across Generations”. Anders Högberg participated virtually in the session and presented on “Futures literacy – Why it matters to transmit information on high-level radioactive waste to future generations.” (22-24 November 2022).

» Emily Hanscam organized an international workshop in Kalmar, funded by the LNU Digital Transformations Knowledge Environment, as part of her project Digital Excavations: Text mining opportunities for archaeology, with participants from the UK and the Netherlands (25 November 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf organized and chaired a roundtable entitled “How can we engage with temporal interculturalities?” attended by an audience participating in the Bi-annual conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies held at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago de Chile (5 December 2022).

» Cornelius Holtorf took place in a seminar on the historic environment and joint development of visitor destinations, held by the Governor of the County of Kronoberg in Växjö, Sweden (7 February 2023).

Emily Hanscam was an invited speaker to the Norwalk Community College Archaeology Club, and gave a talk entitled “Beyond the Frontier: Excavating the Romans in Romania” (9 February 2023).

» Emily Hanscam was an invited speaker to “The Value of Spirituality & Heritage Practices in Post-Secular Societies”, Cambridge. She gave a talk entitled “Social Archaeology, Orthodoxy & Roman Frontiers: Excavations at Halmyris, Romania” (9-10 February 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf lectured on Designing Futures for students in Design, reading a course on Design Processes and Methods focussing on Time at Linnaeus University, Campus Växjö (1 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented an invited lecture on “Conflict Resolution, Conflict Prevention and Cultural Heritage” at the 29th Blanquerna Conference on Communication and International Relations entitled Global Challenges in an Uncertain World at Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain (8 March 2023).

» Emily Hanscam presented “Walled In: Borderlands, Frontiers, and the Future of Archaeology” at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon. The paper was co-written with Brian Buchanan (29 March – 2 April).

» Cornelius Holtorf presented an invited lightning talk “The unfulfilled potential of heritage in the age of climate change” at the British Academy-funded conference on Measuring Loss and Damage to Heritage from Climate Change for Effective Policy Reporting at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, UK (30 March 2023).


» Anders Högberg attended a half-day seminar at Malmö Museum on the topic “Nuclear Cultural Heritage: How are we to remember the Barsebäck nuclear power plant in the future?” (10 May 2023).

Corinlus Holtorf submitted comments on the draft Key Information File (KIF) containing essential information on the spent nuclear fuel repository in Forsmark, Sweden, prepared by Thomas Keating as part of a project at the University of Linköping funded by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) (12 May 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf attended virtually the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation in Jacksonville, Florida, USA attended by some 900 registered participants. For the conference, he had co-organized (with W. Wei) a General Session on “Preserving the Legacy of Humanity: What Is It That We Want to Preserve?” (19 May 2023).
» Anders Högberg presented a research seminar on “Futures Literacy: what it might mean for archaeology and heritage practices” at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (26 May 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf and Tomas Nilsson held a conversation on “Storytelling, hope tourism, and future-making after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011” in a research seminar at the Department of Marketing och Tourism Science, Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden (7 June 2023).
Cornelius Holtorf presented the annual Alumni Lecture on “Why cultural heritage is about the future (not the past)” for the Masters students in Archaeology and Heritage Studies at the University of Aarhus, Moesgård, Denmark (9 June 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf presented on “How can culture and heritage contribute to empowering futures?” at the 23rd Futures Conference 2023 Empowering Futures – Long-term Governance, Democracy and Futures Research, Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy of the University of Turku, Finland (16 June 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf presented an invited keynote lecture on “Time Travel as Archaeological Practice” for a Workshop on Zeit. Raum. Reise. Frühgeschichte als Erlebnis organised by Museumsakademie Universalmuseum Joanneum (Graz, Austria) in collaboration with Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Archäologie, in Herne, Germany (19 June 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf and Gustav Wollentz attended the Naturkulturworkshop Waste-in-progress (organised by Timo Menke as part of Smålandstriennalen 2023), held at the illegal waste deposit site in Marhult (27 July 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf presented on 'Excavating the future' a session at EAA (European Association of Archaeologists) in Belfast (30 August 2023).
» Emilie Hanscam presented “Challenging narratives of continuity: East-Central Europe during the Age of Migrations” at the European Association of Archaeologists in Belfast (30 August 2023).
» Sarah May presented on 'The Battle & the War: What does Heritage do with complex stories’ a session at EAA (European Association of Archaeologists) in Belfast (31 August 2023).
» Gustav Wollentz and Artur Ribeiro organized a session at EAA (European Association of Archaeologists) in Belfast named ‘Sustaining Archaeology: Imagining the Futures of Archaeology’ (31 August 2023).
A workshop on the 19 June in Herne, Germany on speculative design entitled 'Aus der Zukunft lernen: Einblick in die Welt von morgen durch Design, Fiktion und reverse Archäologie' run by Ceren Topcu-Weigand. One of the results of the workshop was to demonstrate the potential of time travelling as a unique form of understanding other times, combining the potential for bodily engagements, using the senses and emotions, with the need to work creatively with future scenarios.
Sustaining Archaeology: Imagining the Futures of Archaeology

Abstract by Gustav Wollentz at a session organized by him and Artur Ribeiro at the EAA (European Association of Archaeologists) Conference in Belfast, entitled ‘Sustaining Archaeology: Imagining the Futures of Archaeology’ (31 August 2023).

In 2022 and 2023 ICCROM has been mapping out the future environment for research on heritage, through a literature review of existing Foresight and Forecasting studies. ICCROM has been doing this as part of a European Commission founded project named, ARCHE, Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage, with the aim of developing a new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for heritage in Europe. The study has examined how different fields have been anticipating the future, what these futures look like and the implications and links to heritage. The study provides insight into possible future landscapes for archaeology, in relation to major global trends in society, such as the climate crisis, an ageing population, the digital revolution, and largescale transnational movement.

The study will look at how these possible future landscapes may inform actions and strategies today for archaeology to be more proactive in shaping a more sustainable future. Focus will be on three identified needs for the future: an economy centered upon wellbeing rather than economic growth, an ethical AI sensitive to human values, and a different, more inclusive, form of heritage in the future, less confined to the narrow of the nation-state.

The Climate Heritage Paradox

Cornelius Holtorf on the “Climate Heritage Paradox” — using the future for rethinking global heritage management.

The “Climate Heritage Paradox” consists of two contradictions that cannot be resolved by current heritage practices and demand a re-conceptualization of the very notion of cultural heritage and how we manage it.

Firstly, in contemporary society, when humanity, maybe at a larger scale than ever before, anticipates and prepares for (climate) change and numerous transformations, archaeological and other cultural heritage look backward and emphasize continuities. Both archaeology and cultural heritage remain deeply immersed in a paradigm of sameness and identity, exemplified by the preservation and conservation of sites and objects and by narratives of specific cultural groups’ traditional knowledge and belonging into particular places.

Secondly, when humanity on Earth needs panhuman solidarity, trust, and collaboration to be able to face enormous global challenges together, archaeological and other forms of cultural heritage are usually managed and interpreted within distinct frameworks of governance provided by individual nation-states. Indeed, cultural heritage is often the result of an existing national interest and often affiliated with a specific ethnic group, reifying and promoting cultural particularism.
Global Engagements

» Cornelius Holtorf took part in a meeting with representatives of the Office of the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO to discuss mutual collaboration in the future (10 October 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf discussed collaboration regarding heritage futures and indicators for culture with Dr Jyoti Hosagrah, Deputy Director, World Heritage Center, UNESCO (17 October 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf participated in a regular World Heritage Council meeting for the World Heritage property Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland representing Linnaeus University, held in Mörbylånga, Sweden (28 October 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf provided written feedback to a draft of the document “Wayfinder Heritage: Applying Resilience Thinking to Long-Term Planning of World Heritage Properties”, resulting from the ICOMOS-IUCN Connecting Practice Project (29 October 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf contributed to a UNESCO survey on “Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change” (2 November 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf attended virtually a plenary panel on “Reimagining our Futures Together: Insights from Futures Literacy”, chaired by Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO, bringing together, among others, three UNESCO Chairs of the UNESCO Futures Literacy Network, and held as part of the UNESCO conference to mark the 30th anniversary of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme (4 November 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf attended the proceedings of the first UNESCO World Futures Day at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The full day programme featured a meet and session for some 30 UNESCO Chairs and other foresight experts associated with the Futures Literacy Network at UNESCO, a panel chaired by Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences (2 December 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf participated in a national network meeting of Swedish UNESCO Chairs held at the National Commission for UNESCO in Stockholm (29 Nov 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf visited colleagues at the Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas y Museo at the Universidad Católica del Norte in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile (6 December 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf made suggestions for bits of text to be added to the Periodic Report (Third Cycle) of the World Heritage Property “Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland”, Sweden (27 December 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf attended parts of the hybrid Symposium “The Future of Futures” to mark the retirement of UNESCO Chairholder Ted Fuller as Editor in Chief of Futures; the Journal of Interdisciplinary Study of Futures, Anticipation and Foresight, London, UK (25 Jan 2023).
» Cornelius Holtorf held informal meetings discussing possible collaboration with Martin Calnan, Chairholder at the UNESCO Chair for the Future of Finance, École des...

» Cornelius Holtorf and Gustav Wollentz took part in a meeting with José Luiz Pedersoli and Alison Heritage representing the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to discuss future collaboration on heritage and foresight (13 February 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf took part in a seminar on Heritage and Identity in Times of War and Peace, organised by ICOMOS-UK (23 February 2023).

» Claudio Pescatore was nominated Corresponding Member of the UNESCO SCEaR (Sub-Committee on Education and Research) (February 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf participated in a meeting of the network of Swedish UNESCO Chairs arranged by the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO (2 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf had an informal meeting discussing possible future collaboration with Onno Seroo, member of the UNESCO Chair in Education, Development and Technology, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain (8 March 2023).

» Cornelius contributed to a UNESCO Survey on the contribution of UNESCO Chairs to Culture in emergencies, connected to the MONDIACULT 2022 declaration (16 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf participated in a regular World Heritage Council meeting for the World Heritage property Agricultural Landscape of Southern Oland representing Linnaeus University, held in Mörbylånga, Sweden (17 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högb erg discussed, as part of a delegation of the Graduate School in Contract Archaeology (GRASCA) visiting the Swedish National Heritage Board in Stockholm, the future of contract archaeology in Sweden as well as future needs of research in cultural heritage, meeting Deputy Director, Susanne Thedéen, the Head of Research, Helena Victor, and the Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage Development, Eric Fugeläng (28 March 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf met with Elene Negussie, World Heritage Coordinator at the Swedish National Heritage Board in Stockholm, to discuss the role of world heritage in relation to ongoing wars and conflicts and Sweden’s submission to the World Heritage Periodic Reporting Exercise (28 March 2023).

» Gustav Wollentz co-managed and Cornelius Holtorf participated in the online Foresight Workshop “Insight into the Future” organised by ARCHE, the EU-funded Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe (4 April 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högb erg participated in the third meeting of the Expert Group on Awareness Preservation (EGAP) within the project on Information, Data and Knowledge Management (IDKM) at the Nuclear Energy Agency, held at the OECD in Paris, France. They held presentations on “Heritage Processes” and “Futures Literacy” respectively. Cornelius Holtorf prepared among others for the EGAP Task Force on International Mechanisms a short document on the opportunities for long-term memory provided by the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention (17-19 April 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf had an informal meeting discussing ongoing priorities and shared interests with Mikael Schultz (Deputy Permanent Representative for UNESCO) and Louise Oscarsson (Attaché for UNESCO) at the Delegation of Sweden to the OECD and to UNESCO in Paris (17 April 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf had an informal meeting with Christin Pfeiffer, Head of Futures Literacy and Foresight, at UNESCO, Paris (20 April 2023).

» Cornelius Holtorf had an informal meeting with Berta de Sancristobal, Head of Unit, and Stefanie Grüssinger, Junior Professional Officer in the Unit for Europe and North America, at UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre, Paris (21 April 2023).
Cornelius Holtorf had an informal meeting with Beate Strøm, Directorate for Cultural Heritage of Norway, seconded to the Unit for Europe and North America at UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre, Paris (21 April 2023).

Vicky Karaiskou, UNESCO Chair on Visual Anticipation and Futures Literacy towards Visual Literacy at the Open University of Cyprus visited Kalmar. The Chair is part of UNESCO’s Futures Literacy network. A lecture on Visual Literacy for our students in Archaeology and took part in an informal seminar with colleagues where we exchanged view on issues of mutual interest in regard to UNESCO, the future, interpreting heritage, and teaching in the digital age (3 May 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf submitted a response in the Consultation of UNESCO Chairs and Category II Centers on the implementation of the United Nations’ 76/214 Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development (Reporting period: June 2021–June 2023) conducted under the aegis of UNESCO in view of the preparation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of Resolution 76/214 on Culture and Sustainable Development, to be presented at the 78th United Nations General Assembly in September 2023 (5 May 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf attended a webinar organised by the Swedish Foresight Network on “Where do Imagined Futures come from?” featuring Riel Miller, formerly Head of Foresight and Futures Literacy at UNESCO (8 May 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf discussed future collaborations with Adam Gordon, UNESCO Chair in Anticipatory Leadership and Futures Capabilities at the University of Aarhus, Aarhus (9 June 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf participated in the 5th virtual UNESCO Chairs Seminar on “Science Benefiting Society: the role of the right to science” featuring not only Keith Holmes, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair Programme Team at UNESCO and Helle Porsdam, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (14 June 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf participated actively in a brainstorming session for the planned UNESCO Chairs Forum at the World Heritage Committee meeting, convened and chaired by Heba Aziz, UNESCO Chair for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Management in the Arab Region at the German University of Technology in Oman. Also participating were five additional UNESCO Chairholders in Egypt (2), Germany, Greece, and Switzerland and three representatives of further UNESCO Chairs in Germany, Italy, and Peru (15 August 2023).

Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högbberg participated in several preparatory meetings ahead of the Joint UNESCO/Futures Literacy-OECD/NEA/IDKM Capacity Building on Futures Literacy Training Workshop in Stockholm on 25 September (16 August, 17 August, 6 September, 15 September 2023).
Media and Popular Science

» Emily Hanscam was interviewed in the local newspaper in Kalmar, Sweden “Barometern” (19 September 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf was interviewed for a new exhibition at Steinzeitdorf Dithmarschen in Albersdorf, Germany (27 October 2022).
» Cornelius Holtorf was interviewed by the Swedish National Commission of UNESCO on World Futures Day (4 December 2022). In Swedish: https://unesco.se/latt-framtiden-borja-idag-vikten-av-framtidskompetens-lyfts-pa-nya-internationella-dagen-world-futures-day/
» Artist Pernilla Frid guided a group of university administrators in Kalmar. The guided tour ended at the exhibition Back to the Future in the Knowledge Cube in Kalmar (presenting the research conducted within the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures (30 March 2023).
» Elena Maria Cautis PhD student with the Centre for Applied Heritage and the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University wrote a blog post “Listning – important skill for the future” at the International Day for Monuments and Sites, coordinated by ICOMOS. The theme was: “Heritage Changes” (18 April 2023). https://blogg.lnu.se/unesco/?p=3074
The future as a luxury


I keep hearing people suggest they don’t have time for the future. Or that other people don’t have time for the future. I hear the classist suggestion that people who are struggling in the present, working hard, don’t think of the future. Some of the strongest futures thinking comes from people who are marginalised, because they need it. It’s the wealthy who can afford not to think of the future, or to do so poorly.

Heritage professionals sometimes treat future work like a slightly comic indulgence, a luxury. This reminds me of how people used to treat archaeological theory – a distraction from The Job. “I’m too busy digging things up to think about why I’m doing it.” is now “I’m too busy preserving things for future generations to question what I mean by that.”

Aside from the refusal to deal with what is important on the excuse of what’s urgent, this position has the same logical flaw as the anti-theory position. Just as everyone relied on theory in archaeology, they just didn’t question what that theory was, everyone is working to an understanding of the future, they just haven’t examined it.

As with theory, if you don’t think it through you won’t see the flaws in the model you work with – the absurd presentism; the confusion between desire and foresight; the fear of prediction obscuring the information we do have; the unexamined terror of rupture and death underlying so much practice, that keeps us from preparing for rupture and death.

Futures thinking isn’t a luxury, it’s a base which allows us to do everything else. The more we understand it the better.

Sarah May.

Listening – important skill for the future

Blog post by Elena Maria Cautis, PhD student, the Centre for Applied Heritage and the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University (18 April 2023) https://blogg.lnu.se/unesco/?p=1074

Ever since the elaboration of the UN Agenda for 2030 and its SDGs, and even more so since the elaboration of ICOMOS’ International Policy Guidance, cultural heritage has been advocated as an essential asset for tackling issues related to the climate crisis, with social challenges identified as part of this process. The International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS) offers the ideal setting for reflecting on which types of values attached to official heritage are suitable for designing the futures envisioned within these strategies. Or else, which hidden values might offer equal if not better support in designing these futures.

This year’s theme of the IDMS reflects on Heritage Changes and alternative sources of knowledge for welcoming our uncertain futures. It emphasizes Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems as valuable sources for finding solutions for meeting the SDGs and encourages heritage experts and institutions to open up dialogues at all levels of society and with other sectors in order to ensure representation in decision making processes with regards to the environment. Read the whole post: https://blogg.lnu.se/unesco/?p=1074

Elena Maria Cautis.
List of abbreviations

**ARCHE** - EU Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe

**EGAP** - Expert Group on Awareness Preservation within the project on Information, Data and Knowledge Management (IDKM) at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

**ICCROM** - International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

**ICOMOS** - International Council on Monuments and Sites

**IPCC** - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**MONDIACULT** - the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development in Mexico 2022

**NEA** - Nuclear Energy Agency

**OECD** - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**UNESCO** - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNITWIN** - University Twinning and Networking Programme, networks for UNESCO Chairs
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