



HERA Joint Research Programme 'Uses of the Past'



HERA

Humanities in the European Research Area



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Introduction

The HERA Network Board is delighted to launch 'Uses of the Past' – HERA's new and exciting transnational joint research programme.

The thematic scope of "Uses of the Past" will provide us with new knowledge and insights on one of the fundamental problems of human society, which is how understanding of the past and the narrative about it influence the present and attitudes towards future.

The nations, citizens and cultures do not exist in isolation. In everyday life decisions on a personal, organisational and governmental level are all influenced by strongly-felt values, rooted in our varied pasts. This is most dramatically demonstrated in conflict situations where fractures can emerge based on long-standing tensions or conflicting views of the past. The foundations of identity discourses of all modern European societies have been laid as the result of the "clash and concord" process, which can be described as a constant process of mutual "reading" and "re-reading" of various sorts of cultural texts, rooted in, reflecting, using and very often also misusing the various pasts. More complex understandings of how the individuals and societies use and reflect upon the past, taking account of how cultural ideas, traditions and practices are constructed, transferred and disseminated among different agents and regions is vital for understanding current situations and possible future scenarios, barriers and opportunities.

The projects will shed new light on how European, non-European or global pasts are actively and instrumentally used, and to what ends (including their relation to such issues as solidarity, trust and imagined futures) always in connection to past or present debates or transformations in Europe. They will examine which historically-informed discourses and actions in society are promoted, mobilized and legitimized, and which mechanisms lie behind the work of historical understanding – in arts, film, literature, drama, media, landscapes, public spaces, languages, philosophy and religions as well as in research, education, politics, economics and journalism. This knowledge will enable us to see more clearly the complex ways in which our cultural diversity has been formed, and the dynamics by which it may be shaped and directed in the future. It will explore and systematize exactly what it means to be a "reflective society", enabling us to better understand processes of historical development, innovation, and social change that are fundamental to the human condition. Such ambitious objectives are extremely important, especially in the period when abstract notion of "European identity" (defined as a result of sharing the common past) is endangered.

The launch of this programme is a tribute to the vision and effort of the HERA partners, who by pooling financial resources and national expertise demonstrate their commitment to building a vibrant and strong European humanities research community. HERA has from its establishment in 2004 been committed to the vision of European researchers working across countries and across disciplines to address societal, cultural, historical and philosophical issues in ways not normally possible within conventional national programmes or at the level of the individual researcher. Previous projects funded under HERA joint research programmes from 2008 to 2016 have not only produced innovative research, but have also built new networks for future projects, have trained a number of new researchers and have promoted knowledge exchange between the humanities and the wider domains of the arts, industry, cultural institutions, education and media. We look forward to continuing to develop this mission with 'Uses of the Past'.

We congratulate the successful projects who are about to embark on this programme. We look forward to following your progress over the next three years and learning much from your experiences and your scholarship.

Wojciech Sowa, National Science Centre Poland
Chair of the HERA JRP Board

EUROPACH

DISENTANGLING EUROPEAN HIV/AIDS POLICIES: ACTIVISM, CITIZENSHIP AND HEALTH

Through the lens of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, EUROPACH will explore how the past is mobilised in the unfolding of activism, health policy and citizenship in Europe. As transnational health-governing bodies seek to integrate a fortified biomedical approach into local structures of care and prevention, the project asks how the past has come to shape these structures so as to enable a reflexive and situated approach to the future. By analysing the discourses and practices that make up HIV/AIDS policy worlds in Germany, Poland, Turkey, the UK, and at the European level, EUROPACH aims to describe the varied citizenship claims (in terms of entitlements and responsibilities) that emerge across shifting notions of Europe. Researchers will unpack the logics of policy discourses and disentangle the transnational histories that have been involved in the co-production of these policy assemblages, and develop a corresponding interactive map to be housed on the project's website. They will also record interviews with long-term activists and persons living with HIV or AIDS, which will provide a foundation for a new European HIV/AIDS oral history archive. Ethnographic research conducted in spaces of policy development and negotiation, combined with analyses of art works engaging with the epidemic, will be used to situate citizenship models in their temporal trajectories, and then to scrutinize them – in close discussion with the project's 14 APs – for insights as to possibilities for the future. In accounting for the multiplicity and entanglements of histories that coexist in contemporary citizenship frameworks at the nexus of sexuality, health and the body, EUROPACH aims to provide support for mapping out the dynamics of integrating local communities, contexts and histories into European structures and praxes of citizenship.

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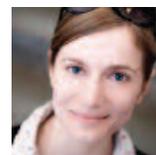
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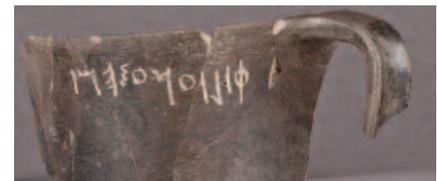
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Multilingualism and Minority Languages in Ancient Europe (MuMiL-EU)

The present Collaborative Research Project aims at shedding light upon some very important defining features of past and modern European identity, such as multilingualism, languages in contact and the various types of cultural interaction involved, as well as prestige and 'transnational' languages and their impact on minority languages. These features are often perceived as a typical problem of contemporary Europe, linked to globalization and recent migrations, rather than a constitutive part of our identity since its foundation. However, the most ancient written documents found in the European continent already show traces of multilingualism and intense language contact, both in areas under the authority of a single and cohesive national power, such as the Hellenistic kingdoms or the Roman Empire, and in regions at the boundary between two or more nations or populations, such as ancient Phrygia and Anatolia at large, North-Western Greece and the Balkans, plus most areas of pre-Roman and Roman Southern Italy. One of the main problems is that in antiquity transnational and prestige languages such as Greek and Latin tended to replace in writing various local languages, which as a consequence are poorly attested and are usually classified as Restsprachen. Each of the five Research Units will focus on different aspects of multilingualism in Ancient Europe, especially by studying specific poorly documented minority languages and/or exploring different types of language contact. As a result, various superficially studied or unpublished documents written in Phrygian, Lydian, different dialects of Ancient Greek, Latin, Messapic and Cappadocian Greek will be edited, commented upon and examined in their historical context. At a more general level, each Research Unit will reflect, both with regard to its specific field and in cooperation with the other Units, on the sociolinguistic dynamics underlying the new philological, linguistic, historical and cultural data that will be disclosed during the project, in order to achieve a better understanding of the linguistic and cultural identities of nowadays Europe. As a matter of fact, a more complete picture of multilingualism in the Ancient European territory will allow us to realize to what extent such European distinctive (and enriching) features as contact among languages and integration of cultures, as well as the concepts of inclusion, multiple identities and unity-in-diversity, are likely to reach back to a very ancient past - a kind of knowledge that can be used as a means for a more in-depth understanding of modern situations of language and culture contact.



Top: Daskyleion Graffiti: Photographed by Alexander Lubotsky,
Middle: Phillion Vase: Photograph publicly available
Bottom: Pella Tablet: Photograph publicly available

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Protestant Legacies in Nordic Law: Uses of the Past in the Construction of the Secularity of Law (ProNoLa)

Protestant Legacies in Nordic Law: Uses of the Past in the Construction of the Secularity of Law (ProNoLa) is relevant to the HERA call by researching the conscious and unconscious uses of the Lutheran and broader Protestant past for the construction and institutionally embedding of norms and values in Nordic secular law. The overarching goal of ProNoLa is to examine relations between Lutheran majority traditions, broader Protestant theology, and the development of secular law in the Nordic region in the course of the last 500 years. Highlighting the numerous ruptures, twists and turns in the relationship between law and secularity, the project aims to provide a more complex, nuanced and critical genealogy of the negotiations of law and religion in the Nordic and German realms.

The expected outcome of the research is thus a reformulated grand history about interlinkages between Lutheran and broader Protestant theology within majority and minority churches and the secularity of the law; not only in the historic period until the Enlightenment era, but during subsequent periods into the current re-confessionalisation and internationalization of relations between religions, state and law.

ProNoLa is implemented by organizing research symposia with subsequent publications and dissemination concerning four overlapping but distinct historical periods involving transformation processes and turns; taking its point of departure in Lutheran reformation and reaching into a 21st Century religiously pluralist future. Finally, in the fifth turn, Norden meets Europe the re-telling of the grand history is presented and disseminated to a wider academic and non-academic public.

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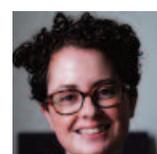
Cruising the 1970s: Unearthing Pre-HIV/AIDS Queer Sexual Cultures (CRUSEV)

The research question at the heart of Cruising the 1970s (CRUSEV) is: how might we best reconstruct and understand LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) social and sexual cultures from the decade between the advent of an international gay rights movement and the first reported cases of HIV/AIDS, and what can this knowledge contribute to understandings of queer politics and identity in Europe's present and future?

While public attitudes towards queer sexualities and the legislative treatment of LGBTQ people differs greatly across Europe, we ask what might be gained collectively, now and in the future, from examining the shared and dissonant European experiences of persecution, discrimination, collaborative action, and protest in the 1970s. As HIV infection rates rise in Eastern Europe, Spain, France, and metropolitan Britain, this project returns to places, histories, and visions of the future from the pre-HIV/AIDS era that have been lost or forgotten, which were fleeting or ephemeral, censored or destroyed. With one in four LGBTQ people in Europe reporting experiences of homophobic violence or verbal abuse in the past five years, we explore how rethinking queer history can offer innovative means of tackling homophobia in the present. CRUSEV interrogates the queer terrain of the 1970s across four European countries (Germany, Poland, Spain, and the UK) as a means of reframing, and ultimately transforming, both contemporary cultural, social and political knowledge about queer history and queer life in Europe in the present.

CRUSEV investigates the transformative impact of queer world making in the 1970s on contemporary LGBTQ life in Europe and on the study of LGBTQ history in the present. In examining these cultural shifts and historical effects, CRUSEV asks a variety of questions of crucial significance to the HERA 'Uses of the Past' theme, including:

- What are the challenges of historicising the recent past, in countries across Europe? In what ways were the 'queer 1970s' experienced and historicised differently in culturally and politically distinct European countries?
- What is the significance of these national differences and similarities for the advancement of legislative rights of LGBTQ people in the European Union in the present?
- What are the blindspots in official histories of this decade? In arriving at our current cultural attitudes and political policies towards LGBTQ people, what 'alternative histories' have been sidelined or obscured?
- What challenges are posed by engaging with hidden or fleeting elements of subcultural history?
- In what ways did hegemonic public discourses (legal, religious, medical) around sexuality and gender identity shape subcultural expressions of LGBTQ identity and queer experience in Europe in the 1970s?
- How do these subcultural expressions of the 1970s shape the experiences of LGBTQ people in the present?
- How was queer cultural creativity in the 1970s related to the social and political legitimacy being won in many, but not all, European countries at the time?



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After Empire: Using and not using the past in the crisis of the Carolingian world, c.900-c.1050 (UNUP)

The tenth century is an overlooked moment in European history. It has played an important role as a starting point for the national narratives of modern countries including England and Germany, but is often characterised as a 'dark age', a 'century of iron' in which the structures of the Carolingian Empire (751-888) collapsed and the map of medieval Europe took shape in the rubble. By rejecting these stories of nations or chaos as starting points for our project, we seek to understand the tenth century on its own terms. 'Uses of the Past' is an ideal theme for this endeavour because the absence of clear administrative or legal structures in our period meant that action in the present often drew authority and legitimacy from claims about the past. The ways that contemporaries chose to use (or not to use) the past – especially the Carolingian past – can be highly instructive to the historian. Focusing on legal, liturgical and historical attitudes to the past will therefore help us recapture the imagined landscapes of tenth-century Europe and to explore it not as a chapter in pre-ordained national narratives but as a case study in transition – an example of how people in the past dealt with crisis and rapid change in the political order. The project will produce academic articles and monographs, but will also attempt to open up the period to a broader audience by providing online resources (including images and translated texts) for teachers and general readers. To accomplish these goals, we will collaborate with schoolteachers and with museums and archives in Germany, Austria, Spain and the UK. As well as these 'virtual' outputs, we will organise a public exhibition of related manuscripts in Catalonia.

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Transfer of Cultural Objects in the Alpe Adria Region in the 20th Century (TransCultAA)

This research project is the first attempt to investigate the transfer of cultural assets in the Alpe Adria area in the 20th century. In an unprecedented transnational and collaborative way, it will engage a multinational team of scholars to analyze "Uses of the Past", in particular historical and current conflicts of ownership, patrimony, and cultural heritage. Despite its regional focus, TranscultAA examines the very concrete and material results of a genuinely European history of transfer, translocation, displacement, confiscation, looting, and theft of cultural objects. More specifically, the project asks: Who transferred or translocated which objects in the Alpe Adria region, when and why? Which explanations (if any) were – and are – given? Which narratives ensued, and why? How do archival documents (from the region and beyond, produced by victims, perpetrators, and the complicit actors in the grey zone in between) help to understand these regional and, above all, national uses of the past? These issues have all been heavily charged by propaganda for political purposes.

Due to the specific characteristics of fundamental research, the collection, documentation, and analysis of archival sources plays a critical role, as only factual data have the power to overcome myths, legends, and, in particular, competing nationalist narratives. The project will also address and illuminate the complexity of the phenomena at a transnational level through analytic studies of the objects present or in transition on the territory at key historical moments. The consortium, composed of "principal investigators" (PI) from Croatia, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia, with associated partners in Austria, looks forward to this international research challenge, which traces not only the tangible movement of objects, but also their role as symbolic capital.

The TransCultAA website is currently being prepared; in the meantime, cf. <http://www.zikg.eu/projekte/projekte-zi/transcultaa>.

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Understanding Shari'a: Perfect Past/Imperfect Present (US-PPIP)

Much modern Muslim thought, particularly around legal issues, is characterised by an emulation of past perfection, and a dissatisfaction with an imperfect present. Muslim communities and movements (be they radical and violent or liberal and progressive) usually frame their programmes for change as attempts to preserve, revive and recapture the belief and practice of the past Muslim community. From terrorism which claims to be Islamic (most recently the emergence of Islamic State and the Charlie Hebdo attacks) to the European Shari'a law debates, the need for a greater understanding of the pivotal role of historical precedent in the construction of contemporary Muslim thinking is clear. It is this need the Understanding Shari'a Project aims to address. The participants, all internationally recognised experts in the study of Islamic law, will create a research base and draw on an international networks of expertise. They will also engage in activities whereby this knowledge can be disseminated to a wider, non-academic audience (including both those within and outside of the Muslim community). Understanding the importance of the perceptions of the past, and the authority drawn from precedent for current Muslim thought and practice is too often misunderstood within the academic community (viewing it sometimes as 'blind imitation' of the past), but more crucially amongst policy makers and the general public. This project aims to make a contribution to raising the level of public debate around these issues by emphasising the creative and future-orientation of modern Muslim understandings of the past. The project is a collaboration of four institutions: Universities of Exeter, Leiden, Gottingen and Bergen, and in each institution an established academic (Gleave, Buskens, Schneider and Vikor) will work with a postdoctoral researcher; the project will meet for both academic and public events every six-months, working with both academics and practitioners.

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Memory Laws in European and Comparative Perspective (MELA)

Memory laws enshrine state-approved interpretations of crucial historical events. They commemorate the victims of past atrocities as well as heroic individuals or events emblematic of national and social movements. They date back centuries and continue to spread throughout Europe and the world.

MELA is a four-nation, EU-sponsored consortium entitled 'Memory Laws in European and Comparative Perspectives' (MELA) gathered to examine memory laws throughout Europe and the world, organised with the generous support of a major HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) grant totalling over € 1.2 million, awarded in March 2016.

In Sanskrit, the word mela means 'meeting' or 'gathering'. That image recalls the pan-European role of memory laws, but also elicits a paradox. State-constructed memory 'gathers' citizens under a mantle of symbolic unity, yet, in a multicultural society, precariously threatens that unity.

Our questions are: When do memory laws conflict with values of democratic citizenship, political pluralism, or fundamental human rights? Are the punitive laws inevitably abusive? Are the non-punitive ones mostly benign? Are there optimal ways for states to propagate historical memory?

For information and updates, visit our website at:
<http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/research/funded/MELA/index.html>



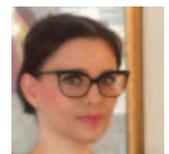
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Printing the Past. Architecture, Print Culture, and Uses of the Past in Modern Europe (PriArc)

Printing the Past. Architecture, Print Culture, and Uses of the Past in Modern Europe (PriArc) examines the relationship between architecture, print culture, and uses of the past in modern Europe and beyond. Looking primarily at architectural debate from the 18th to early 20th century, we study the ways in which new notions of the past were negotiated and constructed through architecture. This negotiation took place not only in stone but on paper, not least in the illustrated press emerging from the 1830s onwards, spreading architectural texts and images to new audiences in Europe, European colonies, and USA.

Studying architectural debate in the public and professional press, including newspapers, trade journals, museum catalogues and popular magazines, PriArc queries the ways architecture was used to construct, promote and interrogate narratives of historical continuity, patrimony and progress. By means of hitherto neglected historical material, PriArc studies the preconditions of architectural culture in the contemporary world; an urgent task at a time when Europe's built environment is being rapidly reconfigured, both as a physical structure and a mediated environment.

Based at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), this multidisciplinary humanities project involves researchers from Leiden University, Ghent University, and University College London, as well as designers and curators from Victoria & Albert Museum/Royal Institute of British Architects, London; Musée d'Orsay, Paris; Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo; and the digital media lab Factum Arte, Madrid/Bologna.

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Sound Memories: The Musical Past in Late-Medieval and Early-Modern Europe (SoundMe)

For today's Europeans, the existence of a collective musical past is a given. The past is heard and negotiated in the concert hall, and when we listen to or perform popular 'oldies'; countless political and emotional narratives are attached to it, demonstrating the extent to which the musical past can be instrumentalised. Our project explores the mechanisms by which Europeans of a distant past (c. 1200-1600) used collective musical memory to shape cultural and political behaviour. In which ways are these mechanisms relevant to the societies of 21st-century Europe?

We investigate how a new notion of a musical past came about in 13th-century France, and how it was applied by communities in the Low Countries, northern Germany, Bohemia and Poland, c. 1400-1600. If the compilers of the 'magnus liber organi' (c. 1250) proudly collected their sonic past in lavish books as a record of achievement, followers of the 'devotio moderna', Hussites and early Lutheran communities often favoured 'archaic' musical styles because returning to the simpler sounds of the uncorrupted past, to them as to many today, held promise of a better future. University communities in Central Europe in turn imported sophisticated music of a century or two ago from France and Italy; like 'classical' music today, cultivating the sounds of the past symbolised international outlook, education, power, and social prestige.

Five teams in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic implement this project through joint meetings, a workshop, an international conference, and an array of scholarly publications (monographs, an essay volume, and articles). The singers of the Ascoli Ensemble (Associated Partner) contribute as 'experimental musicologists' and help disseminate the sounding results to the European public through a series of concerts and recordings.



Top: Petrus Wilhelmi de Grudencz: *Problemata enigmata* Hradec Králové, Muzeum východních Čech (East Bohemian Museum), Ms. II A 6, fol. 328v (Codex Franus) -with kind permission of Muzeum východních Čech (East Bohemian Museum) in Hradec Králové (Czech Republic)

Above: *Introit Salve sancta parens* Hradec Králové, Muzeum východních Čech (East Bohemian Museum), Ms. II A 6, fol. 99r (Codex Franus) -with kind permission of Muzeum východních Čech (East Bohemian Museum) in Hradec Králové (Czech Republic)

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East Asian Uses of the European Past: Tracing Braided Chronotypes (EAU-TBC)

The birth of philosophy in ancient Greece, the fall of the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, the Holocaust: such emblematic historical moments have long been regarded as building blocks of a quintessentially European past. But how “European” is this past if many in the non-European world have claimed competing representations of it as their own? And how “European” is this story if many in the European world, in turn, have appropriated non-European claims to bolster their own sense of identity?

This CRP argues that, far from being Europe’s exclusive property, the pasts constructed through such emblematic historical moments were shaped in global circulations of meaning. The significance these moments acquired in different times and localities must be understood as the result of situated co-productions that transgress continental boundaries and, we suggest, affect perceptions of historical time both in the non-European world and in Europe itself.

Emblematic moments from Europe’s past played a crucial role in changing perceptions of and attitudes towards historical time in East Asia since the onset of intensified contact circa 1600. In China, Japan and Korea, many influential actors, ranging from bureaucrats and politicians to students, historians and poets, appropriated idealized images of the European past to come to terms with their own experiences of change and prescribe recipes for action. Their appropriations of Europe’s past reshaped understandings of European and Asian history not only in East Asia but also in Europe proper.

Underlying this transition, our CRP argues, was a reconfiguration of the patterns through which historical time acquired meaning. Following Bender/Wellbery (1991), we refer to such patterns as “chronotypes.” Chronotypes denote “models or patterns through which [historical] time [assumed] practical or conceptual significance.” Our four subprojects trace how the East Asian encounter with emblematic moments of the European past altered four distinct chronotypes, namely, those of “awakening and rebirth” (Heidelberg), “recurrence and return” (Madrid), “decline and fall” (Zurich), and “timelessness and permanence” (London). All subprojects ask how selected moments in Europe’s past were integrated into existing chronotypes; how they were appropriated to reframe East Asian history; how the new conceptual resources were adapted to legitimize, reformulate or reject old and new ideas; and, finally, how reconfigured chronotypes were enlisted to position the “East Asian” past in a global matrix of knowledge.

Our knowledge exchange activities will focus on discussing our research findings with citizens with a general interest in the relevance of the historical past for present-day identities and policies, as they act on behalf of nationally-defined, yet globally-connected, communities. How do the responses of this public clarify—for them as well as for the academic stakeholders in this project—the transcultural character of everyday life? What follows from the fact that European identities are defined not only by Europeans, but also by people in different times and places who drew inspiration and direction from Europe’s past?

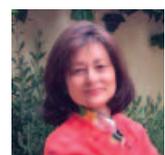
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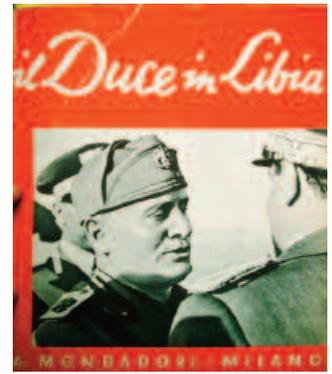
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MODSCAPES - Modernist reinventions of the rural landscape



MODSCAPES deals with rural landscapes produced by large-scale agricultural development and colonization schemes planned in the 20th century throughout Europe and beyond. Conceived in different political and ideological contexts, such schemes were pivotal to nation-building and state-building policies, and to the modernization of the countryside. They provided a testing ground for the ideas and tools of agronomists, environmental and social scientists, architects, engineers, planners, landscape architects and artists, which converged around a shared challenge. Their implementation produced new rural landscapes which have seldom been considered as a transnational research topic. Hence, MODSCAPES aims to raise awareness of this largely underestimated shared cultural heritage which stands today as a tangible evidence of recent European history.



MODSCAPES is carried out by a team gathering expertise in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning, art history, and anthropology. It is led by five experienced individual investigators, with the support of three associated partners of international relevance in their specific areas of activities. MODSCAPES combines research-driven and bottom-up participatory activities based on the collection, processing, elaboration, and critical discussion of visual data and multiple narratives concerning 13 case studies located in 7 EU- and 3 non-EU neighbouring countries. Using the concept of landscape as a unifying paradigm for a trans-disciplinary approach to the topic's tangible (the built environment) and intangible legacies (the related cultural and sociopolitical context), this project aims to establish its European relevance, but also to bridge research, practice, and policy. Hence, it aspires to test its outcomes against the current challenges faced by modernist rural landscapes as a resource for future "reflective societies" and "inclusive environments". MODSCAPES' various deliverables engage and target diversified audiences to enable a better understanding of the common patterns and rich diversities which shaped our national identities and may help to support shared European narratives.



From top: "Il Duce in Libia." Mussolini in Libya. Cover of a propaganda pamphlet (Milan: Mondadori, 1938, 165 pages).

"L'atelier mobile" or Mobile design studio set by the national Department for Urban Planning headed by the French urbanist Michel Ecochard to develop participatory rural development plans in the Moroccan Gharb plain during the last decade of the French Protectorate in Morocco, and the first decade of independence. In the picture, the French landscape architect and urban planner Elie Mauret discusses a scheme with the local settlers, mid-1960s?. Source: Elie Mauret, Pour un équilibre des villes et des campagnes, Paris, Dunod, 1974.

"Ministério da Economia, Junta de Colonização Interna." [Portuguese] Ministry of the Economy, Internal Colonization Department. Propaganda poster, late 1940s? Source: A colónia agrícola de Santo Isidro de Pegões. Câmara Municipal de Montijo, Montijo, 2013, p. 5.

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HERILIGION: The heritagization of religion and the sacralization of heritage in contemporary Europe (HERILIGION)

What happens when religious sites, objects and practices are simultaneously considered heritage? Since World War II, heritage is increasingly seen as defining identities and communities in times of change, and often what is now considered heritage was and still is seen as religious in nature and possibly sacred. Heritage, on the other hand, involves an explicitly secular gaze that sacralizes non-religious aspects of religious sites, objects and practices in a cultural, historical, or otherwise secular, immanent frame. HERILIGION seeks to understand the consequences of the heritagization of religious sites, objects and practices which were not considered heritage before, and which may provoke tensions between heritage and religious constituencies; between religious and secular sacralizations and uses; and between different disciplines and management regimes. HERILIGION will produce new insights which can be used to understand, manage and defuse tensions, benefiting both religious and heritage constituencies in Europe. The research will take place at religious and heritage sites in Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and the UK, or would focus on emerging practical heritage (so-called intangible cultural heritage) in these countries.



Above: Our Lady of Walsingham, statue in the Roman Catholic Shrine. Photographer: Ferdinand de Jong
Right: Our Lady of Walsingham in the Anglican Shrine. Photographer: Ferdinand de Jong

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Identity, citizenship, and nationhood in the post-genome era (CITIGEN)

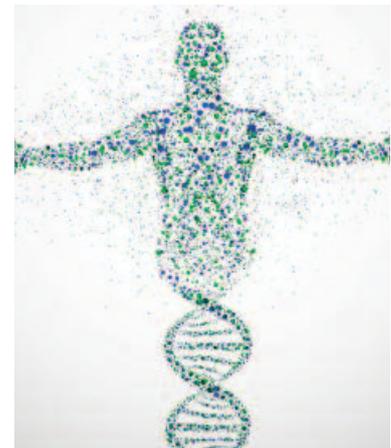
CITIGEN is an international collaborative research project that looks at the uses of modern and ancient genomic data in shaping public understandings of the past and our individual and collective identities. The completion of the human genome project in 2003 marked a watershed in our capacity to convert our own genetic material into a novel source of information about our collective pasts. Thanks to the introduction of new DNA sequencing technologies and advances in ancient DNA research, scientists are now beginning to offer new insights to age-old questions: who are we, and where do we come from?

The current stream of genomic data presents both opportunities and challenges for interpreting human histories. Humanities scholars are uniquely equipped to supply complementary data and critical perspectives capable of contextualising and qualifying the new insights provided by current genomic research. Currently, however, a general lack of genetic literacy in the humanities means that essential voices are often missing from the narratives that are beginning to reshape our understandings of European and world histories.

Headquartered at the University of Copenhagen and involving academic partners from Iceland, Ireland, and the UK, as well as a number of associated non-academic partners, CITIGEN aims to respond to these issues by providing a collaborative, trans-national framework for a constructive dialogue between the humanities and the natural sciences regarding the uses of genomic data in the study of human population histories. Within this framework, we will focus on three main research questions:

1. How are genomic studies being used to shape public understandings of the past, and what is the current impact of this new knowledge upon European societies?
2. How are interpretations of emergent molecular data affecting historically constructed notions of citizenship, identity, and nationhood – and vice versa?
3. How can the humanities and natural sciences collaborate to develop integrated approaches that promote responsible readings of the past?

By framing our research in this way, we plan to highlight not only the potential, but also the constraints of genetic data with regards to (re)writing human histories, and to develop a richer understanding of the human past and its uses in the present.



"Molecular Me". How does DNA research affect historically constructed notions of identity and nationhood? Researchers on the CITIGEN project try to find the answer. Copyright Image: Prototype of Man – by Lonely."

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Deploying the Dead: Artefacts and human bodies in socio-cultural transformations (DEEPDEAD)

Long-dead bodies are pervasive and increasingly active participants in contemporary European society. Through both literal and metaphorical interactions with the remains of the dead, societies and individuals testify to their identity in the present and their aspirations for the future. Why and how do the dead and the artefacts associated with them become flashpoints of controversy, interest, and identity for the living? Harnessing the disciplines of literary studies and archaeology, this project will examine historic and prehistoric encounters with human remains and related artefacts in England and Central Europe in order to shed light on their cultural and social power. Through a series of case studies juxtaposing distinct eras, cultures, and types of evidence, the project will reveal what is constant and what is locally and historically specific in our ways of interacting with the long-dead. Our research will explore the relationship between long-dead bodies and myths of national or community origin, and the ways in which they have been and are used to reinforce or challenge historical narratives. Identifying the meanings and mechanisms of past interactions with the dead and their artefacts in order to inform our understanding of present-day discoveries and dilemmas is the central goal of the DEEPDEAD project.

Results of the project will be disseminated by means of exhibitions, public conferences, social media, and academic publications. These dissemination plans are aimed at prompting informed reflection on the sources of our fascination with the long dead. The results of the project will be useful to heritage professionals and relevant policy-makers in responding to actual discoveries and anticipating the kinds of reactions they are likely to elicit. Equally importantly, they will prove useful in developing appropriate and sensitive responses to campaigns to discover or exhume human remains.



Top: Heart- and intestinal urns of six members of the House of Habsburg who died in the seventeenth century; Mausoleum of Ferdinand II, Graz, Austria (photo: Estella Weiss-Krejci)

Above: Baroque chest with relics of St. Valentine; St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna, Austria (photo: Estella Weiss-Krejci)

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Uses of the Past in International Economic Relations (UPIER)

One of the many exceptional aspects of the global financial crisis of 2008 was the prominence policy-makers and commentators gave to the importance of history in helping to determine responses to the crisis. For example Ben Bernanke, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve System, reached for Friedman and Schwartz's seminal history of the Great Depression in the 1930s to seek inspiration. Comparisons with earlier crises feature prominently in commentaries on the depth and spread of the global financial crisis and reveal the extent to which policy-makers seek to 'learn' from the past. But how relevant is the past as a guide to the present, or even the future, and how is it used when policymakers, bankers and the public are faced with difficult economic challenges?

The main objective of UPIER is to build an understanding of how both policy-makers and market actors use the past as a foundation for their decisions, how they create and discriminate among different interpretations of the past to fit their preconceptions and how they are conditioned by the experiences of their predecessors. Through careful archival research and case studies we also seek to trace the intergenerational transfer of interpretations of the past and how the past is used within a range of institutions across Europe. The project will therefore break new ground for our understanding of how the past is used in the context of international economic relations, particularly at times of crisis. We also hope to refresh the research agenda in economic history in the European Research Area to engage with the uses of the past.



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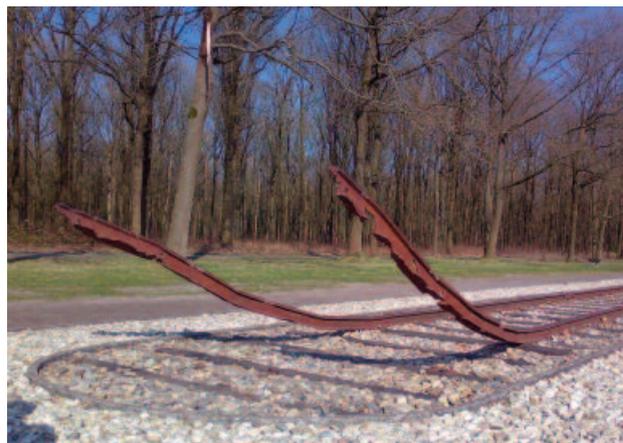
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Accessing Campscapes: Inclusive Strategies for Using European Conflicted Heritage (iC-ACCESS)

'Accessing Campscapes: Inclusive Strategies for Using European Conflicted Heritage' (iC-ACCESS) looks at traces of the 20th century mass violence and terror, as tangible reminders of the "age of extremes" and their present uses in (trans)national contexts. In most post-war European countries former Nazi internment camps have become icons of antifascist resistance and the Holocaust, and they have played a consistent role in postwar European memory of totalitarianism and genocide. In the Eastern European centre of the Holocaust and Communist terror, many former 'terscapes' are still contested spaces where consecutive internments of prisoners by occupying powers and authoritarian regimes transformed the victims of one event into the persecutors of another. This entanglement of remembering with forgetting and the silencing of competing narratives (commonplace in relation to completely unknown forms of historical injustice) show the strong connection between heritage, storytelling and the politics of identity. This poses a serious challenge to museums, remembrance institutions, civil society organizations, social activists, critical academics and educators tasked with the development of new and alternative narratives to make such spaces ever more relevant.



Top: Treblinka Quarry Stones Memorial: Photographed by Robert van der Laarse

Above: Westerbork National Monument for Holocaust Victims: Photographed by Caroline Sturdy Colls.

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The Debt: Historicizing Europe's relations with the "South" (The Debt)

Since the Euro-crisis, the benign European self-image of unity in diversity cedes in the face of a new South-North divide, in which different layers of the past are evoked to explain the division and justify actions. The reasonings mix historical facts with normative, moralistic claims. At their centre is a concept of debt. The core question is: what impact does the invocation of a past debt have on the relation between two (collective) subjects in the present? The question will be answered by selected analyses of debt in narratives about the European past.

Invocations of debt have a performative potential and intend to direct action, claiming that a historical debt relation entails rights and responsibilities in the present. This project links questions of historiography with concerns in political philosophy and addresses squarely the issue of the connection between past and present as posed in the arts and in historical sociology. Thus, it adds considerably to common research on "uses of the past" that often merely shows the past's "constructability".

Scholarly debate has done little, in the newly divided Europe, to make different view-points intelligible to others. The research will demonstrate how performative invocation of past debt has an impact on the present, but also how a historically insensitive accounting view of debt can provoke guilt-oriented reconstructions of the past as a counter-measure. It aims at a more responsible use of the past in the present.



Above: Affiche – Words of Resistance: Photographed by Timon Koulmasis.

Above: Greek Refugees in Syria: Copyright Library of Conference

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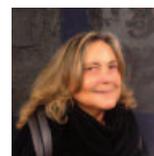
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