Curated session individual abstracts form

NOTE:

1. The following abstracts are part of the proposed **Heritage and Transnationalism Stream**, 'sponsored' by the ACHS's *Heritage and Transnationalism Network* (HTN)
2. Given the number of abrstracts, we are proposing to divide the session into 2 parts.
3. Please copy both Ali Mozaffari and David Harvey in related correspondences (thank you!).

Session name:

*Heritage-Border Relations: Negotiating Theory and Practice (**Part I**)*

Session proposer(s):

David C. Harvey (David.Harvey@cas.au.dk) and Ali Mozaffari (heritageinwestasia@gmail.com)

Session Description (Abstract):

Centring on the theme of heritage connecting people with the past, present and future, the papers in this curated session explore the relations between heritage and borders in theory and practice. Examining how both heritage and borders are constituted through processual and relational dynamics, the session responds to the challenges of defining and managing their (co-)constitution while reflecting on key conceptual and disciplinary boundaries. Focusing on the phenomenon of transnationality, the session explores its effects on heritage and bordering processes on the one hand, and its repercussions for the policy and practice of 'transnational heritage' broadly conceived, on the other. The panel thus interrogates the theoretical, disciplinary, and practical boundaries of the field, and examines the implications of heritage-border relations for broader themes, such as cultural statecraft, cultural diplomacy, and geopolitics in a multipolar world. The session brings together papers that develop conceptual and case-study-based material to enable a critical, comparative, and interdisciplinary conversation.

Within this frame, the session addresses four distinct types of questions:

- **Ontological:** Investigating the heritage ontologies invoked within 'transnational heritage' in both theory and practice.
- **Geopolitical:** Analysing how heritage categorisations (such as those of UNESCO) are instrumentalised within geopolitical projects.
- **Scalar:** Exploring how the relationality of transnational heritage operates across local, national, and continental scales.
- **Administrative:** Examining how specific sites manage the organisational complexity of transnational institutional governance.

Presenter 1

Name:

Ali Mozaffari (Presenter) and David C. Harvey (Co-Author)

Organisation:

University of Melbourne and Aarhus University, Denmark

Aarhus University, Denmark

Position:

Seniorforsker (Senior Researcher), School of Culture and Society - Department of Archeology and Heritage Studies and Senior Honorary Fellow with the Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne;

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Biography (max 50 words):

Ali Mozaffari (M.Arch., PhD) is Senior Forsker in Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Aarhus University and Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Vice President (Communications) of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies, he researches heritage geopolitics, culture, and the built environment, focusing on heritage–border complexes and civilisational analysis.

Summary abstract (minimum 100 words and maximum 150 words):

This paper reports findings from a PRISMA-guided scoping review of scholarship at the intersection of heritage studies and border studies, focused on UNESCO transnational heritage designation. From 8,678 records, 96 studies were included for systematic analysis. The review indicates that heritage–border relations remain unevenly conceptualised: borders are frequently treated as contextual backdrops to heritage, rather than as processual forces that co-produce heritage claims, governance arrangements, and their geopolitical and social consequences. Methodologically, the study combines bibliometric mapping in VOSviewer with structured qualitative coding and close reading to trace conceptualisations, focal phenomena (including boundary blurring/shifting/crossing), and scalar and temporal framings. The paper clarifies transferable theoretical formulations while identifying persistent weaknesses in multi-scalar and experiential analysis, motivating a more explicitly processual framework for assessing what the 'Trans' denotes and what it does.

Presenter 2

Name:

Dr Martina Tullio

Organisation:

University of Macerata, Italy, Department of Law (Former Research Fellow)

Position:

Independent Researcher

(previously, Research fellow in Applied Economics)

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Biography (max 50 words):

Martina Tullio (PhD) is an independent researcher working on World Heritage and UNESCO-related policy. Her research examines heritage governance, community engagement, and heritage diplomacy, with a focus on the interaction between cultural heritage, policy frameworks, and local development, particularly in comparative and international contexts.

Summary abstract (minimum 100 words and maximum 150 words):

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention is directly entangled with heritage diplomacy. Transnational World Heritage Sites (WHS) enable countries to mobilise shared heritage to build international relations. Within this framework, State Parties exert power through UNESCO mechanisms, while UNESCO mirrors wider global (im)balances, turning heritage forums into potential proxy arenas for broader political struggles. Although UNESCO promotes transnational WHS to foster cooperation and make World Heritage List more representative, their limited presence suggests the "trans" dimension remains marginal and under-theorised. This paper asks how transnational WHS function within the Convention and what political and diplomatic dynamics they activate. Methodologically, it develops a conceptual analysis and literature review, alongside a brief examination of geographical distribution and evolution over time using UNESCO's World Heritage dataset. It considers links to regional cooperation and soft-power strategies, and asks under what conditions transnational WHS might contribute to a more representative and equitable World Heritage List.

Presenter 3

Name:

Hanna Schreiber

Organisation:

University of Warsaw, Poland, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies

Position:

Professor, Head of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance

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Biography (max 50 words):

Hanna Schreiber (Dr hab.) is an Assistant Professor and the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland. President of the Warsaw Intangible Cultural Heritage Team since 2020. Her research focuses on international cultural heritage law vis-à-vis international relations, policy, and field practice. Active member of ACHS since 2017.

Summary abstract (minimum 100 words and maximum 150 words):

Foregrounding *Tūhono*'s emphasis on connection and relationality between human and more-than-human beings, this paper argues that Critical Heritage Studies (CHS) requires a more explicit engagement with Critical Security Studies (CSS), especially around intangible cultural heritage (ICH) where the contemporary turn to hard politics is most acutely experienced. In contexts shaped by hybrid threats such as disinformation, emergency governance, de-democratisation, societal polarisation, ICH is increasingly framed through vulnerability and resilience, categories that are far from neutral and carry distinct political and governance effects, reshaping relationships among communities, states, and heritage institutions in "times of uncertainty". Bringing CHS into dialogue with CSS, the paper analyses securitisation processes that reconfigure relational heritage spaces, transforming ICH, via governance and policy instruments, from lived community-based practice into objects of control, regulation, or emergency intervention, often in the name of safeguarding, with implications for social cohesion, community agency, and ethical heritage management.

Presenter 4

Name:

Rob Collins

Organisation:

Newcastle University, UK

School of History, Classics & Archaeology

Position:

Professor of Frontier Archaeology

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Biography (max 50 words):

Rob Collins is a Professor of Frontier Archaeology and Head of Archaeology at Newcastle University. A specialist in Roman frontiers and Hadrian's Wall, his research examines material culture, the collapse of complex societies, and public archaeology. He formerly managed the Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project and worked with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Summary abstract (minimum 100 words and maximum 150 words):

The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE) Transnational World Heritage Site began with the inscription of the Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes (Germany) in 2005 and the Antonine Wall (Scotland) in 2008, extending Hadrian's Wall (1987). It has since expanded through the Lower Germanic (Rhine) Limes and upper Danube Limes (Western segment) in 2021 and the Dacian Limes in 2024, with the lower Danube Limes (Eastern segment) at an advanced stage and aspirations to inscribe Roman frontiers from Turkey to Morocco. This expansion creates opportunities to internationalise shared universal heritage while exposing collaboration and governance challenges, amid Roman heritage's instrumentalisation for visions of shared European values. The paper uses FRE to examine operational structures, international governance, and interpretive strategies for domestic and international audiences.