# EGYPTIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE NOW

التراث الثقافي المصري الان

# EGYPTIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE
# NOW CONFERENCE

مؤتمر التراث الثقافي المصري الان

11 – 13 NOV. 2023

# 1.  Abdelaziz, Sara

ARCE

## *Egyptian Human Remains and Online Illegal Trafficking*

Looting and disturbing ancient tombs is a practice that is contemporary as much as it is ancient in Egypt. Ancient Egyptians used to disturb the tombs to loot royal and elite tombs for precious materials and artifacts; modern-day smugglers and looters have inherited the profitable practice as they encounter an international demand and market for ancient Egyptian human remains, predominantly in the West. This paper explores how weak regulations and policies from websites and social media platforms have enabled the sale of human remains to become a niche unregulated market feeding into a continued narrative of colonized heritage, for Egypt. It firstly focuses on the specific and online sale of human remains, and social media and e-commerce websites' role in feeding the 'grey market'. It then tackles ethical concerns regarding the treatment of the individuals' remains, focusing on the loss of the archaeological record. Using Egyptian mummy remains as a study case, the paper then discusses how the practice continues to feed into the colonial and oriental practice – even if done on an individual level – of robbing the country of its heritage, and the market's negative influence of fueling more looting.

## 2.  Abdel-Bakey, Maha Gouda

Cairo University, Faculty of Archaeology,
Conservation Department

# Omar Abdelkareem

Cairo University, Faculty of Archaeology,
Conservation Department

### *Enhancing Processes Used for Dyeing of Textiles that Can be Used for Conservation Purposes*

Because of their wide appeal, dyed textiles, especially historical ones (as those in museums and galleries), are valued for their aesthetic appeal, their historic interest, and their cultural significance. It is, therefore, important to take steps to ensure their long-term durability and to maintain ongoing access to this material, and the historic and the aesthetic pleasure that they supply using many substances and tools consistent with the case of the object.

This study deals with the conservation strategy for a decorated tablecloth from the Manial Palace Museum. The tablecloth consists of two pieces, decorated with colored threads that seem to represent leaves and flowers on a white background. This object was examined and analyzed before beginning treatment procedures such as, temporary disinfection, cleaning, drying, supporting, and reinforcement.

The aims of the study are restoration, consolidation, and reinforcement of a rare, ancient, dyed textile, and contains data on the object's documentation, analysis, examination and treatment procedures for cleaning and consolidation. Using several methods of investigation and analysis, such as technical investigation, digital microscope, Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) with EDAX, and FTIR analysis, showed us several rare results which enable us to understand the nature of this object, its aspects of deterioration and the most appropriate methods of treatment and conservation. It demonstrates that textile conservation methods should be applied on a case-by-case basis, since each piece is different.

# 3.  Abdelfattah, Mohamed Waheed Fareed

World Heritage Studies, M.A., BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg

## *AI Based Representation of Egyptian Cultural Heritage:*
## *Present and Future Possibilities*

This study explores the potential of leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) advancements to preserve and promote Egyptian cultural heritage in the domains of intangible, urban, architectural, and natural heritage. By employing a multidisciplinary approach that combines data collection, analysis, and cutting-edge AI techniques, the study aims to create captivating and interactive experiences that deeply engage users.

The research methodology involves the use of AI in various aspects of Egyptian cultural heritage. In the realm of intangible heritage, AI algorithms are employed to create virtual simulations of traditional music, dance, and storytelling, seamlessly integrating audio and visual data. Urban heritage is addressed through the digital reconstruction of ancient sites and cities, achieved by analyzing archival photographs, historical documents, and expert insights using AI. Architectural heritage preservation and restoration are facilitated by machine learning algorithms that identify and categorize architectural styles and features through analysis of vast repositories of images and texts. Moreover, AI algorithms leverage satellite imagery and sensor data to monitor landscape transformations, ecosystems, and biodiversity, contributing to the conservation and exploration of Egypt's natural heritage.

The expected outcomes of this research include the development of dynamic platforms and applications that enhance user engagement and knowledge acquisition of Egyptian cultural heritage. By utilizing AI-driven representations, this research aims to raise public awareness, education, and appreciation of Egypt's rich history. The integration of AI technologies with Egyptian cultural heritage not only facilitates groundbreaking research and conservation efforts but also provides future generations with unprecedented access and profound understanding of the nation's multifaceted legacy. Ultimately, this research strives to safeguard Egypt's cultural treasures and foster a renaissance of appreciation and exploration for generations to come.

# 4. Abdelhamed, Zeinab

MA in Cultural Heritage Studies  at CEU

## *Attempting to Decolonize Cultural Heritage Education in Historic Cairo*

The dominant global discourses on 'cultural heritage' have tended to be developed from modern notions of heritage originating in the West. While this has helped to bring culturally specific sites and artifacts to wider appreciation beyond Muslim communities, it has also had the effect of obscuring the cultural values that have historically given meaning to these sites and objects. A significant challenge to  attempts to recover aspects of a broader understanding of Islamic heritage is overcoming contemporary frameworks that inhibit engagement with longer, complex histories of how particular communities have engaged with the material remains of different pasts.  at the same time, the dominance of globalized 'Western' frameworks in contemporary heritage and education discourse has led to numerous problems, with many visitors failing to engage with their own cultural heritage and viewing heritage issues and management policies as 'external' impositions rather than organic expressions of community concerns. This paper then seeks to decolonize the way we teach about the cultural heritage of Historic Cairo and presents a multi-sensory learning experience, in other words, a meaningful learning experience that can catalyze engagement with heritage and raise awareness among visitors. It explores the design of an educational program that includes a multisensory approach to the different activities. The multi-sensory approach includes hands-on, visual, and auditory materials that can be touched and carefully linked to the objectives of the content. It is designed to engage visitors directly and dynamically in the learning process to achieve effective interaction during a walking tour of Historic Cairo. The application of these methods can help us  develop effective ways of exploring Islamic aesthetics, culture, art and architecture from a decolonized perspective that resonates with contemporary concerns. It also ensures direct and dynamic engagement in the learning process to achieve effective interaction with the cultural heritage in Historic Cairo.

# 5. Abd El Hay, Nora Hesham

Doctoral Candidate in Heritage and Museum Studies,
Helwan University

# Rasha Metawi and Sherien Amin

Helwan University

## *Game-based Learning for Heritage Education: The Egyptian Story Museum Model*

Museums are considered an important institute of informal education. They offer education about the past and amusement to their visitors. Yet, some Egyptian museums are facing significant problems in the pedagogical methods which they use to transfer the knowledge of the museum to young learners. Game-based learning has been adapted as an effective approach for education, however, Egyptian cultural heritage education has still not been properly introduced in museums.

This study aims to engage young visitors with the museum collection by integrating a story museum model. This model adapts a hypothetical story which connects with the museum's collection. Targeting young visitors from the age of 7 to 14 years, this model uses non-digital interactive games, designed through a gamebased learning approach, inside Egyptian museums.

This research is based on a review of the literature in heritage education developments and concepts, as well as the challenges faced in this area. It also focuses on the gamification of museums and the benefits of using game-based learning approaches in education.

Furthermore, interviews are conducted with heritage education experts, as well as online surveys for the target groups to test their museum experience and preference to try game-based learning approachs in museums. Moreover, the final results of this research areis to test the impact of using this model on the target group with a methodology for designing these games.

# 6. Abd El-Kawy, Mohga Ramadan Abd El-Kader

Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## *Paddle and Ground Technique of Pottery Making in Egypt, Then and Now*

Pottery manufacture, like other productive technologies, represents a point of direct interaction between people and their environment. Consideration of the chaîne opératoire involved in transforming a lump of clay into a pottery vessel provides new insights into the craft, its technological steps, and its underlying choices.

The paddle and ground technique is one of the pottery shaping techniques that has been used in Egypt since the Naqada I period and is still used to the present day. It is a simple technique of shaping that involves molding the pots in a depression on the ground and thinning them with a "paddle," which is a device made of stone or a specially shaped clay object that is pressed against the vessel wall from the inside.

According to some scholars, it was a Nubian finishing method for shaping vessels. This study aims to shed light on this technique through a comparative study between ancient and modern Egypt to demonstrate that it is of Egyptian origin and was utilized as a stand- alone shaping technique. This will be demonstrated using archaeological evidence from a recently discovered Old Kingdom pottery workshop at Kom Ombo as a case study.  As the workshop's floors were truncated by rounded, subrounded, and oval cuts filled with clay, the indentation in the surface of the clay housed a rounded hammer stone, which was utilized for shaping the vessels by paddle and ground technique. The archaeological evidence will be compared to ethnographical examinations of the same technique, which is still used  at Nazala's pottery workshop in Fayoum and Deir Mawas in Minia.

# 7. Abdel Meguid, Ossama A. W.

Museum Studies, Helwan University

## *Museums in Egypt and Climate Change*

In this paper, we explore two questions:
1) How can museums help people develop their understanding of what climate change means to them?
2) How can museums help facilitate a response to climate challenge?
There is no doubt that climate change is one of the most important topics of the day, given that there is no evidence of the increase in temperature since the nineteenth century and the doubling of the rate of increase in the twentieth century. Warming leads to sea level rise, weather fluctuations and disasters as a result of floods, storms, droughts or torrential rains. Therefore, there should first be a national program to develop a risk map for the threatening effects in coastal areas and in the course of torrents to take the necessary measures to protect them. On the other hand, a plan should be drawn up, because of the impact of climate change on tourism, since it affects what the tourist intends to visit. It is, therefore, necessary to prepare the areas that are considered more  attractive and diversify the tourist destinations and programs in the field of cultural tourism, including the interest in intangible heritage. It is advisable to organize museum programs in places that will indicate what climatic changes have occurred with accompanying explanations of the impact of climate change on society and the measures taken to mitigate and overcome it. Among these places is the Nilometer in Al-Rawda, from which it is inferred that the climate impacts the scarcity of floods that led to the Al-Mustansiriyah famine, and the Nilometers in Aswan, Edfu and Luxor, which monitored the change in flood levels as a result of climatic fluctuations in the upper Nile in ancient Egypt.

# 8.   Abdelmoniem M. Abdelmoniem

Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University

## *Conservation Processes of a Wooden Coffin Covered with a Black Resin Layer and Colored Materials in the Dahshur Archaeological Area*

This paper describes the results of a multi-technological analytical protocol performed on the painted surface of an Egyptian wooden coffin and documents the conservation processes of a wooden coffin covered with a black resin layer and colored materials in the Dahshur Archaeological Area dating back to the Late Period. It utilizes visual observation, optical microscopy (OM), technical imaging, 2D and 3D programs, and a scan made using an electron microscope, coupled with an Energy Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX), and X-ray diffraction (XRD). Wood identification was carried out. The results showed the use of yellow ochre for the yellow painted layer. The ground layer was calcium carbonate with gypsum, and the fabric layer was Linen. The conservation processes of the wooden coffin include mechanical and chemical cleaning; reassembling the separated wooden parts, ground layer, and black resin layers; filling the edge of the ground layer; and consolidating the wood, black resin, and painted layer. The conservation processes include mechanical cleaning using soft brushes, chemical cleaning using xylene and distilled water for the black resin layer and ethyl alcohol and distilled water for the painted layer; stabilization of the separated ground layer using Paraloid B72; filling the cracks of the ground layers using glass microballoon with Paraloid B72; and consolidating the painted layer with nano-silica with Klucel G (hydroxypropyl cellulose) (0.5% concentration).

# 9. El-Aboudy, Ola

Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo University

## *The Importance of Postal Stamps in Egypt's Decolonization*

Egyptian postal stamps have been influential in promoting the country's national identity, culture, and historical accomplishments. During British colonial influence, foreigners had complete control over Egyptological studies, excavations, and the Egyptian Museum. However, postage stamps promoted autonomy by showcasing significant monuments and temples in Egypt.

Stamps with ancient Egyptian symbols, writings or monuments have been a popular subject for postage stamps commemorating important domestic and international events, reflecting the country's rich cultural and historical heritage. Here are a few examples of Egyptian monuments that are depicted on stamps:

1- A Wedjat Eye on a commemorative stamp for the Fifteenth International Ophthalmological Conference in AD1937 (20 million), to symbolize healthy eyes.

2- The Pyramids of Giza and the Colossi of Memnon appeared on a commemorative stamp for the International Conference on Telecommunications in AD1938 (5 million), which reflects that Egypt is connected from North to south.

3- The god Thoth, the Egyptian god of writing and wisdom, with the name of King Fouad written in a cartouche appeared on a post stamp, commemorating the International Geographical Conference in Cairo in AD1925 (5 million).

The purpose of these stamps was to display Egypt's cultural and historical accomplishments to a broader audience. While stamps did not directly contribute to increasing opportunities for Egyptians in the study of Egyptology and excavations, they played a significant role in promoting national identity by highlighting aspects of Egyptian history, art, and achievements. These stamps also helped foster a cultural narrative free from colonial influences.

The paper will focus on how the Postal stamps helped disseminate information, raise awareness and strengthen national identity. This awareness of the Egyptian public was essential to the start of the revolution. It is important to note that colonialism in Egypt was a multifaceted and complex struggle involving political, social, and cultural aspects.

# 10. Abu Hassan, Eman

Grand Egyptian Museum

# Zoe Mcquinn

Manitoba Museum, University of Toronto

## *Fostering Learning and Education for Accessible and Sustainable Heritage: The Children's Museum at the Grand Egyptian Museum as a Case-study*

This paper will examine the importance of learning and education in Egyptian museums for the development of accessible and sustainable heritage. The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) serves as a case study to explore innovative exhibitions and programs that engage children in hands-on, minds-on, and hearts-on experiences, fostering knowledge, understanding, respect, and involvement.

The Children's Museum at the Grand Egyptian Museum is the heart of the museum and offers a unique opportunity to investigate the transformative power of learning and education. The GEM is dedicated to developing a child's sense of wonder about ancient Egyptian culture with the interactive environments of the exhibition spaces and the unique program offerings that foster a child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Interactive exhibitions at GEM create safe spaces that help children develop creativity and social skills, and cultivate emotional and intellectual development. In the exhibition spaces, alternating emphasis is placed on multi-generational dialogue with experiences designed to encourage families to engage with each other, and self-directed learning for children encouraged with independent exploration. In support of the exhibitions, a rich variety of curated programs, performances, and workshops give children an opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills. Some specific innovations have created bridges between ancient Egyptian heritage and emerging trends in STEAM learning, as well as generating passionate involvement in heritage management and an emerging interest in volunteering by teenage participants. By utilizing a variety of pedagogical approaches, digital innovations, inclusive practices, community engagement, and sustainability, the GEM has developed exhibitions and educational programs that can be used as a toolkit to develop best practices in museums that can point to future directions for Egyptian museums to support a diverse community of visitors.

# 11. Eladany, Abeer

Museums and Special Collections, University of Aberdeen

## *The Aberdeen Connection: Collecting Egypt in Aberdeen*

The University of Aberdeen Museums houses a wide collection of Egyptian artifacts that is considered to be the second largest in Scotland, after the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. This paper will explore the history of this collection and how the objects were taken from Egypt to form this nationally reorganized collection in Scotland and the UK.

University of Aberdeen medical alumnus, collector and Egyptologist Dr. James andrew Grant, contributed the majority of the objects when he donated the content of his "Cairo Museum" to Aberdeen, his alma mater, following his death in 1896. This research explores the colonial connections associated with this donation which took place a few years before the opening of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

This paper will also discuss the role of Nora Griffith (nee MacDonald), Annie Quibell (nee Pirie) and her sister Penny in curating the collection when it arrived in Aberdeen's King's Museum in 1897. Other donors such as Petrie and the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, as well as the EEF also contributed to the then growing collection from the excavations at many sites such as Abydos, el- Badari; Gurob, Memphis, Shurafa, and Deir el-Bahari. Aberdeen also houses the collection of Joseph Pollard, the author of The Lands and the Monuments, Notes of Egyptian Travel (1896) and member of the Council of the Society of Biblical Archaeology. Alumni and residents of Aberdeen who traveled to Egypt throughout the years viewed the university as a safe depository for their Egyptian collections. Multiple instalments of objects from the Grant Collection were later donated by Florence Grant. This research will highlight the history of the collection, its ethical issues, and how it can be decolonized.

# 12. Aly, Mennah

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

## *The Sustainable Role of Regional Museums in Preserving Egypt's Intangible Cultural Heritage*

As a country famous for its long history, Egypt is well-known for its rich and diverse cultural heritage, which is not only attested in the form of tangible sites, monuments and artefacts displayed in numerous museums, but also in the form of the intangible vivid oral traditions, festive celebrations, social customs as well as traditional arts and crafts. The importance of this intangible cultural heritage is that it represents the preserved identity of the Egyptian civilization and its traditions, -passed on from one generation to the next. Unfortunately, Egyptian intangible cultural heritage is endangered due to broad cultural globalization, and demographic and/or economic issues leading to weakened practices by local communities. Due to their role in preserving, interpreting, and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of humanity, and as knowledge-sharing institutions that operate for the benefit of communities, the regional museums in Egypt could in fact play an active role in the preservation of Egyptian intangible cultural heritage and its sustainable dissemination to future generations.

This paper highlights the role of regional museums in the preservation of Egypt's cultural identity through communication of its rich and diverse cultural heritage to the local communities. It also sheds light on these institutions' role in bridging the gap between intangible cultural heritage, exemplified in traditional practices, arts and crafts, and the museums' physical collections. As the sustainable preservation of intangible cultural heritage depends mainly on the practicing communities, this research sheds light on the idea of involving the rural communities in museum activities and public events. Furthermore, the paper discusses the participation of the private sector and stakeholders in supporting the role of the local museums in the rural communities' development and in the preservation of Egypt's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

# 13.  Aly, Rabab Hamdy

Cedae, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

## *Abu el-Daraj: The Lost Roman Station on the Red Sea Coast*

Abu el-Daraj is located on the far northeastern side of the Eastern Desert  at 77km on the road leading from Suez to Hurghada, by the new Galala Road, directly overlooking the Red Sea coast. The site and the surrounding area were given this name because of the water well located in the area, known as Abu al-Daraj, in relation to St. John El-Dargy, who used to live in Qalali  at the top of the mountain overlooking the site in the past. The site was known to be one of the stations located on the old commercial road linking the Eastern Desert and the Nile Valley, and it was recently used as military barracks, due to the presence of the remains of stacked bricks for two rooms, in addition to the presence of bricks built on top of a high peak as a watchtower. The mission of the Scientific Institute of Oriental Archeology in 2003 is the only mission to work  at the site, and its main objective was to record and document the cells located  at the top of the mountain. It only took pictures of the well and the remains of the two rooms and the watchtower, and due to the site's location in the area of tourism investments and constructions, it was subjected to backfilling and distortion works until the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities annexed the site as public utilities for the Antiquities Sector. Some cleaning works were carried out and the rubble was lifted in preparation for the first organized excavations  at the site, to reveal one of the stations located on the old trade route linking the Eastern Desert to the Nile, dating back to the Roman era  at the very least.

# 14. Anderson, David A.

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology,
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

## *Photogrammetry and 3D Modeling of Pharaonic Sites*

The last decade has seen rapid development and refinement of the 3D scanning technique commonly known as 3D photogrammetry. With a need for and emphasis on documentation, archaeology and heritage management have been early adopters of this technology. Practitioners of these fields have taken advantage of its easy to perform nature as well as its high levels of accuracy (if performed correctly) to document remains ranging from small artifacts, to statuary, to large buildings and entire sites. But 3D photogrammetry is only a tool for obtaining three-dimensional representations of the past. Using examples, this paper explores the ways in which the 3D modeling of objects and sites with photogrammetry can be used not only to document pharaonic period Egypt but also to facilitate research in new ways. Further it discusses ways of making the documentation more accessible and in new formats for consumption by both scholars and the public.

# 15. Arram, Riham and Heba Saeed

iCulture for Creative Industries and Heritage Safeguarding

*Documentation, Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage of fishing in Alexandria in times of climate change (DSPIA)*

Sailing and fishing are popular professions familiar to Egyptians since antiquity. For centuries, these activities have been an important resource playing a major social and economic role for Egyptians, specifically coastal communities of the Mediterranean cities. Fishing-dependent communities are mainly working in fishing or fishing-related crafts as a main source of food, transportation, and trade. The lives of more than 60% of the inhabitants of Alexandria are directly or indirectly dependent on fishing activities.

The intangible cultural heritage of fishing communities represents an integral part of the identity of the Alexandrian community in particular, and the Egyptian community in general, since Alexandria is a supplier of one third of the fish production needs of Egypt. Families' lives dependent on this activity become more vulnerable and threatened day after day, that is at least a third of the lives of the inhabitants of Alexandria. Meanwhile fishing-related intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is a tool for the integrated sustainable development and promotion of coastal areas of Egypt. It represents outstanding social, economic, and cultural values. The value of such heritage lies in the wealth of traditional knowledge and uniqueness of technical skills that should be preserved and transmitted to future generations.

The project will focus on documenting, safeguarding, and promoting 2 types of ICH of the fishing communities of Alexandria:

1- Oral traditions and expressions (popular sayings, mystical tales related to sea, songs of sailors, etc.)

2- Social practices and festive events associated with seafaring and fishing trips (such as fishing celebrations, night festivals on fishing boats, marriages in fishermen communities, rituals of sailings, etc.).

The duration of project is two years, starting from May 2023.

# 16. Atef, Shaimaa

IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca (LYNX Research Unit

## *Management System(s) of Public Museums in Egypt: Case of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Museums*

This research paper is concerned with museums as "public institutions," aiming to explore how public museums can become more efficient in creating and delivering their public values in contemporary Egyptian society, considering the history of their establishment. The research would investigate the history of the establishment of museums in Egypt and their attachment to imperialism and colonialism. The first three museums in Egypt were founded and managed by Europeans for almost a century. Moreover, the Antiquities Committee, responsible for managing all Egyptian antiquities, was also established and managed by French Egyptologists from 1858 till 1952. On the contrary, from the 1919 revolution against the British occupation, Egyptian heritage has been used intensively in the independence movement. Then after the 1952 revolution that led to the establishment of the first Egyptian Republic, the state authority fully claimed Egyptian heritage as part of the rising nationalism movement. This research will investigate the impact of colonialism and nationalistic discourse on the current management system of Egyptian museums.

The paper aims to understand and analyze the current mandate governing public museums in Egypt. The research's central question is, "How museums in Egypt can create and deliver their public value(s) efficiently in light of their history of establishment?" To answer the research question, the administrative history and the current management system(s) of public museums affiliated with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will be studied and analyzed. The research methodology will be based on a complete review of the laws and decrees organizing the administration of public museums in Egypt, along with in-depth interviews with ministry officials and museums' specialists aiming to analyze the current management system of public museums in Egypt and propose potential interventions.

# 17.   Bakhoum, Dina

IFAO and CEDEJ

*Living Religious Heritage Places in Egypt: Maintaining, Restoring, and Conserving their Diverse Values and Significance*

What are the values and significance of what we have inherited and specifically of what we refer to today as "living heritage"? How do diverse interest groups value this heritage? Why, how and by who is living heritage used, protected, maintained, restored, managed, conserved (or not)? Who takes the decision regarding what to do, especially  at times when interests conflict? Egypt has a long history of dealing with these questions in relation to its religious heritage through the waqf (endowment) system and the works of the Comité de conservation des monuments de l'art arabe in Egypt (1880s-1950s). This will be briefly introduced as it helps to contextualize the present situation, which is the focus of this presentation.

Through the experience of the author of this paper in managing a number of conservation and restoration projects of mosques and churches/monasteries in Cairo and Upper Egypt, which were carried out by different organizations (ARCE, AKTC and others) in the last two decades, the complexities of intervening in living heritage sites with diverse values for different interest groups will be discussed.

The presentation will highlight the importance of understanding and analyzing the significance of such places before carrying out any interventions, an approach that has gained popularity in the last decades. and although this endeavor often reveals that bridging the gap between different interest groups is an ongoing challenge, it is also an opportunity that should not be missed as it allows for a more profound understanding of these sites. Moreover, the process allows for new creative and innovate ways of collaboration for the protection of these heritage places for the local communities and for the wider community of interest groups including art historians, conservation specialists, visitors/tourists and others.

## 18. Bakry, Hanaa Fathy

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

# Nermine Sami Ahmed
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

### *Hidden Gems of Islamic Alexandria: A Digital Record from Al Bab Al-Akhdar Street*

By the Arab conquest in 641 CE, Alexandria started to lose its outstanding position as a capital, but its cultural role continued with a limited construction movement. The city was typically enclosed by walls with gates. One of those gates was Al-Bab Al-Akhdar (the western green gate) which overlooked the western harbor. A new renaissance of Alexandrian architecture was carried out by Mohamed Ali in the early 19th century, and the city began to blossom in every aspect of life. In 1844, a street of Al Bab Al-Akhdar was established in that area as part of Mohamed Ali's development plan for Alexandria as a commercial center. The new route of Al-Bab Al-Akhdar has become a link between the city's main square (Al-Manshiya) and the port, to facilitate trade mobility. The area was transformed from a cemetery to a home for a wide range of houses, mosques, shrines, public fountains, and markets that are distinguished by unique Islamic arts (particularly Ottoman style). This study sheds light on the changes, challenges and threats facing the architectural heritage of Al-Bab Al-Akhdar Street. The research is based on an archaeological survey to record and identify the current conditions of buildings still upright in the area, using remote-sensing technology and satellite images, maps, and available photographs. The documentation helps in revealing the entire picture and a comprehensive understanding of both the nature and scale of the threats to have accessible data presented in a digitized form. This research provides fundamental digitalized data on each building, including the level of risk and how each building relates to the other in order to set a methodology and strategies for the preservation and protection of this vital and vibrant heritage. This digitized data allows for better monitoring, analysis, and management of this cultural heritage for future generations.

## 19. Albeik, Salam

Architecture Department, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

## Mohamed Amer

Ph.D. In Heritage Marketing and Sustainable Cultural Tourism, Roma Tre University

### *Mandarin Kouaider el-Korba Branch, Egypt: Historic Buildings-hosted Retail Stores Beyond Enhancing the Lifelong Learning Memory*

The valorization of historic buildings, as a socio-economic domain, is becoming a priority. From a public-private partnership perspective, these might transmit its heritage knowledge by hosting retail stores that may affect the locals' nostalgic experience. Consequently, this research investigates the correlation between the fundamentals of profitability and customization perspective and conservative management to enhance the heritage values and the lifelong learning memory of the locals. It is an empirical study that reviews the rapport between the Egyptian historic building of el-Korba, and the retail store Mandarin Kouaider, el-Korba Branch. It applies an integrated method that combines qualitative and quantitative analysis. It mainly assesses 200 online questionnaires with the public audience as well as a descriptive report by the retail director. The findings of this study draw a link between this memory, the heritage context, and the symbolic brand logo and interior design of the retail store.

## 20. Bodenstein, Ralph
German Archaeological Institute Cairo (DAIK)

## Dina Bakhoum
IFAO and CEDEJ

## Omar Kassab
DAIK

### *Dayr Anba Hadra at Aswan: Preventive Conservation and Site Management Planning*

Dayr Anba Hadra (a.k.a. St. Simeon's Monastery) is a vast monastic complex on the West bank of the Nile, facing Aswan. It developed from the 6th -— 7th centuries onwards and was abandoned sometime around the 14th century. The ruins may count as one of the best-preserved examples of medieval Cenobitic monasteries in Egypt. They feature a complete enclosure wall with gate towers, a monastic church preserving parts of its historical vaults and wall paintings, a two-stories high residential building, and the remnants of numerous workshops and auxiliary structures. Many hundreds of Coptic and Arabic graffiti left on the walls by Christian and Muslim visitors since the 10th century constitute a substantial source for tracing the otherwise elusive history of this place.

In 2014, the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo (DAIK) began research work on this site in collaboration with the Freie Universität Berlin. The project started as an epigraphic survey that gradually expanded to include other fields of research as well as conservation and site management planning.

The matter has gained urgency especially after the violent rainstorm of November 2021, which highlighted the risks posed to the site and the vulnerability of its material composition in face of climate change. at the same time, the number of tourists and visitors to the monastery is increasing significantly in comparison to pre-pandemic rates, adding strain to the site. Furthermore, the monastery is a site of "living heritage", hosting a yearly religious festival in commemoration of Anba Hadra with thousands of pilgrims attending festivities inside the monastic church and complex.

This paper will briefly outline the previous work of the DAIK in the monastery and present its ongoing efforts to develop preventive conservation and site management solutions in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the local Coptic community.

# 21. Chahine, Passent

Pharos University

*Cultural Heritage Management: Digital Documentation,*

*Conservation and Visualization of Anfoushy Necropolis in Alexandria*

The Anfoushy Necropolis is a tangible cultural heritage site that demonstrates the dynamic interaction between the Greek and Egyptian burial traditions of Alexandria during the Graeco-Roman period. Given that the Anfoushy Necropolis is subject to numerous destructive factors, the study investigates, analyzes, and assesses risks as well as the vulnerability of the necropolis, in order to recommend retrofitting procedures that were proposed within a comprehensive site management plan based on the guidelines and recommendations of intentional entities concerned with CH preservation and conservation, such as ICOMOS, ICCROM, and UNESCO. Using an interdisciplinary approach that includes quantitative and qualitative methodologies, this paper investigates the linkages between Cultural Heritage and technology. The principal purpose is to develop a comprehensive site management plan that is viewed as a priority-based intervention. Examples of digital documentation and preservation are presented, as well as a virtual reconstruction of the Anfoushy necropolis, to bridge the gap between various disciplines related to the context of this paper, such as archaeology, history of art, conservation, heritage and cultural management, and digitalization. Offering historical interpretation through the use of storytelling in order to improve the digital presentation of the site will therefore promote the site's dissemination and sustainability as a cultural heritage site.

# 22.  Davoli, Paola

Università Del Salento, Italy

## *Soknopaiou Nesos Project. Conservation and Presentation of Dime es-Seba (El-Fayoum) Project*

In the Fayyum, the desert North of Lake Qarun is a unique and interesting landscape for preserving geological and archaeological features. Among them is a Graeco-Roman site called Dime es-Seba, in which the Soknopaiou Nesos Project of the University of Salento (Italy) has been working since 2004. The settlement is 660 x 350 meters and is characterized by a paved dromos 400 meters long and a large temple area dedicated to Soknopaios and Isis Nepherses. Its temenos walls in mudbrick are still a landmark in the desert, being partly preserved for 15 meters in height. Some of its segments of walls collapsed in the past, and others are at risk, being already eroded at the base. Their collapse would be a severe loss from an architectural and landscape point of view. The Roman period temple has been excavated in the last ten years, but the Ptolemaic sanctuary still needs investigation. It is built with local stones and mud, and its walls are still preserved up to at least 10 meters, but for the nature of the masonry, they are fragile and about to collapse too. Climate change also rapidly affects the mudbrick and mud structures through increased rain and humidity. These new climate conditions are responsible for the mud's melt and vegetation growth on the archaeological site and cemeteries. Thanks to a new restoration project funded by AEF-ARCE (2021-2023), we could start consolidating these features to preserve the buildings and the landscape for future generations.

# 23.   Diemer, Gersande Eschenbrenner

Department of History and Philosophy, University
Alcala De Henares

# Islam Ezzat

IFAO/University Ain Shams

### *Ain Shams University Preserving Egypt's Wooden Heritage: Conservation Protocol and New Research Prospects in the Face of Climate Change*

The wooden heritage preserved in Egypt, from antiquity to the present day, is the richest corpus in the ancient and modern world. This unique and endangered heritage must be preserved, especially in the face of climate change, the impact of which is increasingly tangible. The Egyptian territory presents complex and varied conservation challenbges depending on the context, from  attacks by xylophagous insects and microbes to rising salt and groundwater.  It is therefore necessary to act and adapt to the terrain to respond as effectively as possible to the problems of conservation, stabilization of materials, then restoration and reconditioning, with a view to sustainability and respect for the ecology. This two-part paper will highlight the various actions currently being taken to safeguard Egypt's wooden heritage in response to the climate emergency and the need to define a conservation protocol for Egyptian wood, adapted to archaeological sites, architecture, and museum collections. Particular  attention will be paid to the impact of climate change on ancient wood, which is vulnerable to microbial weathering. The results of previous studies and reviews aimed  at assessing the factors and aspects of ancient wood weathering, related to projected rates of climate change in archaeological sites or museums, will also be presented. There are indeed indications of both antagonistic and beneficial interactions between climatic conditions and microbial growth. We know that fungi play a key role in determining bacterial communities in wood, and conversely, bacteria can affect wood-decomposing fungi. Serpula lacrymans is one of the fungi that cause damage to old wood, known as "dry rot". This basidiomycete has the ability to rapidly colonize wooden statues, coffins, panels and gilded furniture. Known and innovative treatment protocols will be presented here, with a view to the forthcoming publication of the protocol for the ecological conservation of Egyptian wood.

# 24.  Farouk, Yasser
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## *Management of the Cultural World Heritage Sites in Egypt: Policies and Guidance, Strategic Objectives, Challenges, and Relevant Opportunities*

Egypt contains six Cultural Heritage Properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, consisting of several important archaeological sites, all of them managed by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA). One of the main issues in Egypt now is the creation of management plans for these sites and the relationship between the authorities, local communities, and stakeholders.

This paper aims to shed light on the management of the Cultural World Heritage Sites in Egypt, and its definition, approaches, and methodologies. It also addresses MoTA's role in producing effective management plans for the World Heritage Sites and creating a strategy for their protection, highlighting the challenges, the factors affecting the World Heritage Sites and the relevant opportunities in managing such vast sites, which are considered one of the most valuable resources for Egypt's economic national development. The paper also outlines the aims of the management plans and the methodologies of their implementation. It also focuses on the national legal protection framework, and international commitments. Furthermore, it provides the required guidelines for World Heritage Sites management based on the plans created in Egypt for all of these sites in order to facilitate the protection and enhancement of the entire World Heritage Sites in an efficient and sustainable manner, thus benefiting the community and the country as a whole.

# 25. Galan, José

Spanish National Research Council, Madrid

### *Oh you, who shall pass by these Tombs! Making Accessible the Tombs of Djehuty and Hery (TT 11-12) in Dra Abu el-Naga North*

The tomb of Djehuty (TT 11) and Hery (TT 12), located in Dra Abu el-Naga North, are remarkable monuments, from the artistic, cultural, and historical point of view. Each one has unique features that make them special and worth visiting. Djehuty was overseer of the Treasury, overseer of the works and overseer of the cattle of Amun under the joint reign of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III. The monument's decorative program focuses on writing, designed to impress the visitor with the owner's writing skills, with his capability to adapt the inscriptions to the architecture, and his creativity to play with the visitor's perception and challenge their knowledge. Hery was overseer of the double granary of the king's mother and royal wife Ahhotep. He lived under King Ahmose, and probably died under his successor, king Amenhotep I. His tomb is one of the very few surviving decorated tombs, dating to the beginning of the 18th Dynasty.

The two tombs are decorated in relief. When restoring the tombs of Djehuty and Hery it was decided not to hide the scars that the passing of time and human activity had caused on the walls' surface and even on their structure. The breaks and cracks, while they posed no danger for the visitor, were left visible. The philosophy behind this was also to add as little as possible to the monument, and only carry out reconstructions, when needed, for stability or security reasons.

When planning the opening to the public of the tombs of Djehuty and Hery, it was considered a good idea to illuminate the inner part of the monuments with solar panels.

The site and the tombs of Djehuty and Hery were officially opened to the public on the 9th of February 2023.

# 26.   Gasimov, Aslan

Department of Archaeology, National Museum of History of Azerbaijan

## *Traces of Ancient Egyptian Civilization in Azerbaijan*

Ancient Egyptian civilization, with its advanced development and rich culture, exerted a significant influence on neighboring regions. Egypt's cultural and trade connections extended to the countries of the Middle East, reaching as far as Azerbaijan. The Bastet figurine, acquired by the National Museum of Azerbaijan's director, D. Sharifov, in 1927, serves as evidence of these connections. The Bastet figurine was discovered in Ganja, Azerbaijan, and measures 10.5 cm in height and 3.5 cm in width. Crafted using the lost-wax casting technique, the figurine is attributed to the Late Bronze-Early Iron Age. During this period, the CAUCasus, including Azerbaijan, was influenced by events in the Near East, and actively participated in these processes.

Bastet, also known as Bast, was considered the ancient Egyptian deity of home and women. It was believed that Bastet protected the household, women, and children from evil spirits and diseases. She was regarded as the daughter of the Sun god Ra and was often depicted in the form of a cat. The Bast figurine discovered in Azerbaijan portrays a human body with a cat's head. The figurine stands on two legs and holds an object in its left hand, which is believed to be an ankh, although the object is not fully visible. The right hand is folded forward.

This paper highlights the presence of ancient Egyptian cultural artifacts in Azerbaijan, specifically the Bast figurine, and emphasizes the cultural and historical connections between Egypt and the CAUCasus region during the Late Bronze-Early Iron Age. The figurine provides valuable insights into the interregional trade and cultural exchanges that took place during that period. Further research and analysis of such artifacts will contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical ties between these distant civilizations.

# 27. Gemaeiy, Ghada

Faculty of Archeology, Cairo University

## *Al Shakhloba Village: A Site Management Plan for Sustainable Development*

This paper aims to draw attention to one of the most exquisite villages in Egypt, Al Shakhloba Village, a fishing community located south of Lake Burullus in Kafr el Sheikh. This village consists of many features that make it unique in its urban structure and urban design on land and at sea and on the Nile River because of its location and some other factors. Due to climate change and the rising water level of the lake, many features of the tangible and intangible heritage of the village could disappear for good. Hence, this site management plan considers documentation; prevention, using eco-friendly materials; green conservation; and site monitoring through public engagement. Those steps are the key elements leading to sustainability. This plan requires public engagement, alongside the work of archaeologists and conservators, to successfully implement the site management plan and ensure its sustainability. Accordingly, this paper aims to find the best solution to rescue the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Al Shakhloba.

# 28.   Hamam, Iman
Independent Researcher

## *Ancient Practices in New Environments: The Cultural Heritage Artifact Reconsidered*

In Egypt, the time of the moulid (sufi/saint festival) is exceptional in its massive scale and high social impact and carries such a remarkable degree of creative expression that it can be understood as a unique cultural heritage phenomenon. A universal and contemporary practice of personal and communal production, shrines function as points of contact between deeply personal and expansively public realms. The spectacle is not only concentrated around the shrine itself, but in the structure and material makeup of the mausoleum and the surrounding area. This complex "superstructure" also provides services to the public, which further demonstrates that among the moulid's remarkable creative features are the artifacts and figures that operate and circulate in these exceptional spaces. This includes the clothing and accessories made and worn by moulid participants, the structure of the shrine itself and the fabrics and objects that are used to adorn it. Looking  at the moulid as a site of living cultural heritage will be taken as an opportunity to raise the following questions: what temporal factors constitute Egyptian cultural heritage? What features of material culture should we be paying attention to and why? What makes an artifact? Which artifacts, in the museum and outside of it, stand  at the point of intersection between Pharaonic, Coptic, and Islamic culture and heritage? I argue that the eruption of objects in the context of the moulid reconfigures ancient, spiritual, and indigenous practices into the contemporary context of mass commodities, digital culture and the electrosphere, giving "power art" and "sacred objects" changed meanings that we must consider. In doing so, I seek to disrupt colonial approaches to Egyptian heritage and culture reinforced by conventional modes of scholarly enquiry.

# 29. Hashesh, Zeinab

Beni-Suef University

## Sabah Abdel Raziq

Egyptian Museum, Cairo

## Ahmed Gabr

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)

## Afaf Wahba

MoTA

## Samia El Marghany

MoTA

## Salima Ikram

American University In Cairo

## and Roxie Walker

Institute For Bioarchaeology In London

*Challenges and Promising Steps in the Curation of the Egyptian Museum Bioarcheological Remains*

In March 2018, an osteology course was hosted at the American University in Cairo for the Egyptian museum curators, comprising both theoretical and practical components. The two-week practical training was conducted in the Egyptian Museum basement, using material excavated by De Morgan in the late 1800s. The condition in which the material was stored and curated inspired the idea of a joint project to better inventory and curate it. The Egyptian Museum Cairo Bioarchaeological Remains Curation (EMCBRC) project was established in 2020 by Beni Suef University, the Egyptian Museum at Tahrir, and the Institute for Bioarchaeology in London. The project's objective is to establish a facility within the Egyptian Museum for the curation of bioarchaeological material, including human, non-human, and botanical remains. The project also aims to create an accessible inventory of all these remains while continuing the bioarchaeological training program for curators. During the course of the project, we decided to design a manual for magazine managers, which was successfully printed and distributed throughout Egypt. It was handed to inspectorates and storage magazines in October 2022, via the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The manual is in Arabic and English, and covers the handling and storing of archaeological material, basic human anatomy, and what can be learned from it.

# 30. Holthe, Idunn Lüllau

Department of Social Anthropology / CEDEJ, University of Oslo

## *Heritage Lost and Re-found: Mudbrick as Climate-Smart Architecture or an Elitist Dream?*

This paper seeks to re-explore the ideas of Hassan Fathy with current trends of recognizing mudbrick as, not only architecture for the poor, but as heritage in line with contemporary ideas around sustainability. What does it mean when vernacular architecture, largely abandoned by the local population, is reinvented by an urban and intellectual elite as climate smart heritage?

70 years after Hassan Fathy's mudbrick housing project relocating villagers of Old Gurna, the village is considered a UNESCO World Heritage site in need of safeguarding. Although not much is left of Fathy's dream, the village is frequently visited by, and an inspiration for, architects from around the world.

In Siwa Oasis, and to an even larger extent across the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia, mudbrick architecture is increasingly recognized for its heritage value. Old and abandoned mudbrick towns are reinvented as sites of fancy souvenir shops and restaurants serving ecological and vegan friendly dishes, attracting tourists through the rhetoric of sustainable, climate smart heritage.

However, the legacy of mudbrick, dating back to Pharaonic times, goes beyond these sites. It is to be found, highly alive, all around the former city of Thebes. On the small hills around the West Bank are beautifully decorated mudbrick houses dating back hundreds of years. Yet, the many tourist buses arriving in Luxor every day, mostly pass these areas to visit the Pharaonic tombs and temples. The oldest mudbrick houses are now often inhabited by pigeons and rabbits, and the previously mudbrick-dominated landscape of the West Bank of Luxor is increasingly a scene of concrete buildings.

Looking at these examples, this paper will explore the recognition, creation, and re-invention of mudbrick as heritage, following the ideas of Hassan Fathy, to the current developments of sustainable mudbrick tourist villages, along with the local abandonment of mudbrick.

# 31. El-Hosary, Marwa

Central Administration of Tourism, MoTA

## *The Importance of Applying Digital Technology to Museums in Times of Crises (COVID-19). Case Study: Egyptian Museums*

In the last two decades, the world has incredibly changed due to technology, which has become the norm of everyday life, specifically in times of crisis. Many countries have applied modern technology to their tourism industry as a tool to increase its progress and achieve the highest levels of development. Moreover, cultural heritage and museum management is of great importance to promote the tourism industry and to preserve heritage for future generations.

The main aim of this paper is to discuss the importance of technology in cultural heritage, focusing particularly on applying digital technology in museums, especially in times of crisis such as COVID- 19. This research will introduce some examples of new technologies adopted by other museums in order to enhance the visitor experience, rendering museums more engaging. It will also shed light on how museums navigated COVID19, and how countries took advantage of various technological tools to overcome this disaster. This study will analyze the technological use within Egyptian museums, investigate the problems that Egypt faces in terms of integrating technology into its museum collections. Finally, this paper will present suggested solutions to increase engagement in Egyptian museums and consequently raise awareness on cultural heritage and museums not only on the national level, but on the international level as well.

# 32.   Hussein, Hesham Mohamed

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## *The Rock Inscriptions Documentation Project: Al-Dalma Cave in Sinai*

The Egyptian team of the Rock Inscriptions Documentation Project embarked on a survey visit to the uncharted Wadi Dalma area in 2021. Their mission was to locate a rumored cave adorned with intricate animal engravings. Despite facing challenges such as the lack of official records and the area's status as a restricted military zone, the team remained undeterred. Through unwavering determination and meticulous surveying techniques, the team successfully discovered the elusive Dalma Cave. Situated 15 kilometers southwest of Al-Gifgafa village and 55 kilometers east of the Bitter Lakes, the cave derived its name from the prominent "al-Dalma" wadi, meaning "Darkness" in Arabic, as documented on the 1956 topographical map.

Inside the Dalma Cave, the team encountered a breathtaking trove of rock art. Notable among the discoveries were vivid depictions of bovids executed in a vibrant and naturalistic style reminiscent of the revered "Franco-Cantabrian" and "Lascaux-like" traditions. These depictions stood in contrast to the stylized representations of cattle in Predynastic iconography, featuring curved backs, bent legs, and overlapping figures, suggesting dynamic movement in various directions. Significantly, the Dalma Bovids bore a striking resemblance to rock art found in Qurta and Wadi Abu Subeira in Aswan, as well as similar depictions from the Ice Age in Europe. This correlation unveils ancient cultural connections and provides valuable insights into the artistic expressions and symbolism of early civilizations in the region. In this paper, we tackle the mission of the Egyptian team of the Rock Inscriptions Documentation Project, shedding light on the remarkable gallery of bovid rock art, and discuss challenging established notions of ancient iconography which reveal captivating cultural connections. With each revelation, the ongoing project contributes to the broader understanding of the historical and artistic legacy of Sinai.

## 33. Ibrahim, Ahmed Tarek
Object Conservation Department, The Metropolitan Museum Of Art; Gem

## Moamen Othman
MoTA

## Mohamed Abdelrahman
MoTA

## Eissa Zidan
GEM

## Eid Mertah
Egyptian Museum, Cairo

## Nour Badr
GEM

## Hanan Ismaeal
GEM

## Somaya Alhindawy
GEM

### *Tutankhamun's Two Life-size Wooden Statues Do Not Match: New Art-historical Perspective*

Tutankhamun's Two Life-size Wooden Statues Do Not Match: New Art-historical Perspective  This paper provides a new artistic interpretation of two of the most stunning artefacts in the Tutankhamun collection: two wooden life-size statues which were discovered in Tutankhamun's tomb, depicting the young king. Similar royal tomb guardian figures have been discovered in other New Kingdom tombs, in the Valley of the Kings, and fragments of similar life-size statues have been recovered from the tombs of Horemheb, and Ramses IX, now located in the British Museum.

The two statues were termed "guardian" statues as they faced each other before the entrance to the Burial Chamber. One statue stood on the west side of the doorway to the Burial Chamber (Carter 029: JE60708), while other statue (Carter 022: JE60707) stood on the east side of the doorway to the Burial Chamber.

Although they are very similar, the guardian statues do not match, from an artistic perspective.  The purpose of this paper is twofold: firstly, it will make the case based on the repertoire of canonical forms (the Canon of Proportions). Secondly, this paper will offer an understanding of the composite sculpture process, which is based on merging pieces created separately. According to Carter, it is impossible to ascertain how many pieces of wood the statues were composed of. Yet, using a non-destructive X-ray method is an excellent research approach that optimizes the method for nondestructive visualization of the interior, revealing construction procedures of the pair of statues.

# 34. Jackson, Briana
American Research Center In Egypt

*Cultural Heritage and the Theban Mapping Project: Preserving the Theban West Bank Online*

Digital Humanities is not the future, but the now in Egyptological studies and practices. It continues to grow exponentially in importance as archaeologists and other researchers navigate the changing landscape of archaeological sites that are continuously modified by excavation, climate change, human traffic, and other activities, and the general wear and tear of time.

The Theban Mapping Project's first website, launched in 1997, was one of the earliest largescale digital projects created to preserve the archaeological landscape of the West Bank necropoleis, providing to the public the documentation of KV 5 and other West Bank sites. The website unfortunately crashed in the mid-2000s, but work began in 2018 to revive the site and to bring the Valley of the Kings back to the fingertips of scholars, students, and the public. It continued to grow with the 2023 launch of the Valley of the Queens and Western Wadis and historic dig houses (in-progress), and currently Phase 1 of the addition of West Bank temples is underway with an expected launch date in December 2024.

In antiquity, this region experienced several natural disasters that damaged a significant number of tombs and temples, some of which remain at high risk of collapse. The influx of tourists has further made the monuments, especially tombs, vulnerable to damage due to heat and moisture effects and risks. The Theban Mapping Project website's ongoing mission is to digitally preserve all the monuments of the West Bank through exhaustively detailed documentation in terms of plans, site and exploration histories, conservation histories, photographs, and articles that are available to the public anywhere in the world. This paper will provide an overview of the TMP website's role in Egyptian heritage site management and how it serves as a digital tool in preserving Egypt's cultural heritage.

# 35.   Ismail, Fatma

Central Administration of Tourism, MoTA

*Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Modern Egyptian Cultural Identity:*

*An Analysis of Historical Influences and Contemporary Trends*

In this paper, the author will explore the multifaceted and dynamic Egyptian perspectives on their own history, which are often shaped directly or indirectly by various political and ideological factors. These factors may include the promotion of a specific national identity or the contestation of colonial narratives. The complexity of these viewpoints is further compounded by ongoing debates and disputes surrounding the ownership, interpretation, and representation of cultural heritage sites, artifacts, and historical figures. Consequently, navigating the intricate cultural and political landscape is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the Egyptian sense of their past and cultural identity. This paper aims to elucidate methods to achieve this understanding and introduce novel concepts in reception studies, such as "Reflective Reception" and "The Question of Value," which can provide valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of Egyptian self-perception and cultural expression.

# 36.   Keshk, Fatma

DAI/ IFAO

*About Workforce, Passion and Inheritance of a Profession:*

*The Archaeology Workmen of Saqqara*

Within the recent significant development in researching the history of Egyptology in the past few years, there is also a rising interest in restudying the history of local archaeology workmen in Egypt since the late 19th century. The legacy of these workmen, that is central to the history of archaeological excavations in Egypt, has suffered from scholarly neglect for a long period of time until the publication of Stephen Quirke's book (Hidden Hands: Hidden Hands: Egyptian Workforces in Petrie Excavation Archives, 1880-1924) in 2010. Quirke's study was followed by further research by other scholars such as Wendy Doyon, Maximilian Gerog and Joanne Rowland.

The current paper aims to present the preliminary results of an ongoing research project that was started in October 2022 and studies the contribution of archaeology workmen of the Leiden-Turin Expedition to Saqqara. The project, which relies on multiple methodological approaches including oral history and archival research, highlights new insights into the historical legacy of this major professional group, their expertise and inheritance of the profession. Moreover, the initial results were also able to retrace the different networks of jobs undertaken by these workmen within the wider sphere of the Saqqara excavations inside and outside the archaeological sites; where they worked as cooks, gardeners, and housekeepers. The first product of the ongoing project was documented through a short movie entitled: "Living memories: the workmen of Saqqara". Through this paper, I aim to present the current research outcome and the plans of the next phase of the research that aims to study the legacy of Egyptian archaeology workmen within their wider social and historical contexts since the early 20th century until today.

# 37.  Lacovara, Peter

Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund) and Nicholas Brown (UCLA)

## *Saving Egypt's Ancient Settlements*

Egypt's growing population has spurred the creation of new housing, fields, roads, and cemeteries. This need for land has often come  at the cost of the destruction of its archaeological heritage, particularly in restricted areas bordering the Nile floodplain in Middle and Upper Egypt. Ancient settlements, which have been little studied in Egypt, are particularly  at risk as sites are removed from centers of archaeological activity such as the Memphite and Theban areas. The destruction is growing apace and necessitates a reorientation of archaeological priorities and training to develop new strategies and techniques to ensure the survival of these irreplaceable resources. The work of the Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund  at Deir el-Ballas may provide some suggestions as to how to approach these problems.

# 38.  Mack, Deborah Lynn
Smithsonian

## Decolonizing Museum Practice: Egyptian Audiences for Today and Tomorrow

While much of the international discussion on decolonization in museum practice has focused on issues of collections management, ownership, and restitution, far less discussion has focused on how museums can be more strongly aligned with their own national stakeholder audiences. This paper will describe a professional development workshop currently in planning with ICOM-Egypt, that will focus on building the capacity of professionals to actively work with and serve a broader range of Egyptian audiences and enhance storytelling skills that prioritize Egyptian audiences in their social and community contexts.  Trainers from several world regions lead this exchange of knowledge and professional practice, which is deigned to also strengthen the communication and collaborative work among the members of the network of Egyptian museums.

The bilingual Arabic-English training will serve some 30 participants: 10 participants from Cairo, 10 from elsewhere in Egypt, and 10 from Arabic-speaking Africa and the Middle East.  By the end of this workshop participants will better engage a much broader range of audiences, accomplished in part by incorporating audience research into the exhibition/program process and by developing museum exhibitions/program in collaboration with various stakeholder audiences. Participants will also develop interpretive techniques and storytelling about contemporary community life, history, and culture. Finally, participants will be able to identify/ incorporate non-conventional sites and public spaces as museums/ cultural center venues.

# 39.   Mahdy, Haithm

Graeco-Roman Archaeology Department, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University

## *Preserving Egypt's Ancient Quarries in the Face of Climate Change: Challenges and Strategies for Cultural Heritage Conservation*

Climate change is one of the most pressing concerns of our time, and its impact on cultural heritage is becoming increasingly evident. In Egypt, ancient quarries represent a crucial component of the country's cultural heritage, providing valuable insights into the techniques and materials used by the ancient Egyptians in their monumental construction projects. However, these quarries are facing significant threats from the changing climate, including increased erosion, water damage, and temperature fluctuations.

This paper examines the impact of climate change on Egyptian cultural heritage, with a focus on ancient quarries. Drawing on a range of sources, including archaeological studies and climate data, the paper explores the various ways in which climate change is affecting the preservation and management of these quarries. It also considers the strategies being employed by researchers and conservationists to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure the long-term survival of Egypt's cultural heritage.

The paper argues that the preservation of ancient quarries is not only important for the study of ancient Egyptian history and culture, but also for the sustainable development of the region. By maintaining these quarries as cultural and economic resources, Egypt can promote tourism, create jobs, and support local communities. However, this requires a concerted effort to address the challenges posed by climate change and to develop effective conservation strategies that balance preservation with economic development.

Overall, this paper highlights the urgent need for increased  attention to the impact of climate change on cultural heritage, and the importance of developing strategies that can help to protect and promote these valuable resources.

# 40. Maitland, Margaret

Department of Global Arts, Cultures, and Design; National Museums Scotland

## Noble Ones': Reconsidering the Role of Terminology in the Objectification of "Mummies".

The word "mummy" was popularized in the 18th and 19th centuries when ancient Egyptian mummified bodies became commodities that were bought and sold. Dehumanizing unwrappings were justified by presenting ancient Egyptians as "specimens" or Orientalized "others". This fueled "curse of the mummy" stories that explored the uneasy mixture of fascination and fear, desire, and repulsion, of colonizer towards colonized. Today, "mummies" are familiar and yet still seen as strange. Public perceptions of the ancient Egyptian dead are colored by sensationalism. We now better understand ancient Egyptian beliefs, but "mummy" has continued to be used as a convenient shorthand. Considering the baggage that the term comes with, and its blurring of truth and fiction, the usefulness of the term in the context of museum displays should be reconsidered. This paper will consider how a change in terminology can challenge expectations and raise awareness of the colonial histories and legacies of Egyptological collecting, using a case study from the National Museum of Scotland.

# 41. Medhat, Abdelrahman

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)

## Shaimaa Fouad
MoTA

## Mohammed Abdelrohman
MoTA

### *Climatological Hazards on the Archaeological Sites of the Western Desert*

Climatological hazards on archaeological sites received great attention as one of the important issues addressed by a range of disciplines to study and analyze. Climate change may accelerate the degradation of archaeological sites in Egypt and lead to loss of important historical sites. This study of the archaeological architecture in the western desert in Egypt is based on the need to save this heritage from the danger and acute risks it is now facing. This paper aims at showing the effects of climate change on the archaeological sites of Balat' (Dakhala Oasis) and Nazlat el Fakhriane (Fayoum) , located west of the Nile. Climate change is causing not only a loss of cultural heritage but considerable economic loss, putting at risk the livelihoods of the inhabitants of these selected sites. An integrated methodology, including preventive and intervention conservation, is being followed. Green Conservation, sustainability, and retreatment were considered in conservation and mitigation. The conservation of earthen architectural heritage is extremely complex due to the diversity of its constituent materials and potentially rapid physical deterioration. Interventions on historic earthen architecture throughout the world have shown very distinct levels of success, but there is no single procedure or combination of conservation procedures that guarantee success. One of the problems is the lack of knowledge about the behavior of soil as the material component, and its relationships both with other materials, and associated natural and cultural environments.

# 42. Mehrez, Shahira

Independent Researcher

## *Egyptian Cultural Heritage Between Orientalism, Loss Of Criteria and Lack of Serious Research*

The strong desire of our rulers to westernize led, from the mid 19th century onward, to a merciless liquidation of our heritage. The historic city was bulldozed, making way for large, "Haussmann-like" avenues; marble-floored courtyard-mansions were replaced by "villas" with French or English furniture; kaftans were exchanged for crinolines and frock-coats and millennium-old jewelry, for ever-changing, fashionable, artifacts.

Master craftsmen who, from generation to generation, had inherited the know-how required for the elaboration and development of archetypes reflecting the sense of beauty of the nation, found themselves, gradually, without patrons. These had been the recipients of age-old knowledge and discrimination, uncompromising about quality as well as encouraging and richly rewarding innovations. It was this interaction between enlightened sponsors and gifted artists that, for millenniums, had allowed traditional arts and crafts to evolve and develop. When native customers turned their back on tradition, the new clients who replaced them, resident expatriates, and foreign travelers, though well-intentioned, were totally unaware of centuries-old quality criteria and failed to fulfill this role. As a result, elaborate techniques were simplified to produce cheaper versions and traditional archetypes corrupted to satisfy tourist fantasy.

This paper will examine how age-old dynamic processes of innovations ended up in lack of creativity, tasteless repetitions, and mediocre techniques. It will show how the resulting hybridization and bastardization of traditional archetypes alienated our youth from their own legacy as well as ended our historical role of contributors to the cultural heritage of humanity; seeking solutions, it will also demonstrate that the only way out of this unfortunate situation is for more serious research. Short of resuscitating dying traditions (an irreversible process), correct documentation will acquaint the interested public with their legacy and enable them to detect counterfeits; it will also provide artists with raw models, furthering creativity.

# 43. Minadakis, Nikolaos and Georgia Moysaki

Advance Services

## *Egyptian Digital Data Integration Using Semantic Web*

Egyptian cultural heritage databases are scattered among various heterogeneous infrastructures. This results in the maintenance of data and metadata in different formats, prohibiting the integration of data on the same topic, period, person, etc., for interested parties. Integration becomes extremely meaningful, especially in the humanities, since this kind of data has been gathered by different institutions in a timespan of hundreds, if not thousands of years. This situation puts a variety of barriers in the conduction of scientific research. Scholars and researchers need days or even weeks in order to search, check, and extract information from the relevant institutions for each case, in order to be able to answer complex questions.

To this end, we have designed and implemented a complete and comprehensive approach to methodology, in order to harvest, normalize, clean, map, transform, ingest, integrate, reconcile, query and display humanities metadata and data using semantic models and repositories. This workflow is facilitated by an open source big-data workflow execution and monitoring system (Apache NiFi) that allows the asynchronous, parallel, and efficient data management and manipulation.

A novel structured search mechanism that enables the gradual building of complex querying and answering is also supported. Apart from the classical keyword search, faceting, filtering, semantic search and advanced search, the novel structured search allows complex queries answering. This process has been replicated on various international projects by Advance Deep Tech Services, such as PHAROS art research platform and Yashiro & Berenson Letter Database. PHAROS is an international consortium that has as a main objective to integrate PHOTO archival information coming from 12 research institutions such as Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max Planck Institute, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, and Getty Research Institute.

# 44. Nadeem, Zeinab

Master of Public Policy, The American University In Cairo

## *A Fading Cairene Heritage: Management of Heritage-at-risk*

The heritage landscape in Egypt has often been dominated with official narratives that include 'sanitizations' of urban spaces for the touristic eye. Throughout the past few years, newer efforts have been directed towards conserving heritage that is recognized by local communities and the involvement of different stakeholders due to the regarded social and cultural values of that Egyptian heritage. The heritage notion has thus been widely contested, and, consequently, an infinite number of shades of heritage exist in the Egyptian context. Nowadays, the discourse is predominantly focused on heritage-at-risk under the case of climate emergency. However, the real threat and heritage-at-risk lies within the framework of decisions consciously taken to erase an 'unwanted past' from Egyptian identities. The shades of heritage that do not complete the narrative framed by the official discourse are  at risk of erasure due to negligence of designing interventions that voice the communal values of the particular heritage. A 'site of memory' such as the Mohamed Mahmoud Mural Wall near Tahrir Square can serve as a site of a fading cultural heritage. Therefore, an underrepresentation of heritage that collectively defines the Egyptian identity and memory exists in Cairo and many other governorates. This paper will cover the different shades of heritage in Egypt and their current status with regards to their risk of erasure through an in-depth qualitative methods approach using a survey and structured interviews with key stakeholders and members of the community to realize areas of potential intervention to 'save' community heritage.

# 45.  Akmal M.A. Nasr, Mona

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

## *The Prehistoric Heritage of Egypt: An Asset or a burden?*

The current state of prehistoric archaeology in Egypt is a result of subsequent events that started as early as the 16th century in a non-Egyptian context. Understanding the nature, pace, and complexity of these events is crucial for rethinking the huge amounts of prehistoric material culture as valuable assets, and for the true consideration of them as a significant part of our heritage. Hence, the current paper provides an assessment of the successive events that took place on both national and international levels, with a special focus on reconstructing the developmental phases of the emergence of prehistory as a science. Furthermore, the paper explores the reasons behind separating prehistory from Egyptology and calls for the importance of considering the entire Egyptian history as one robust entity. Furthermore, the research provides insights into the role played by early excavators and museum staff in promoting or underestimating the prehistoric heritage of Egypt and examines the epistemological role of the Egyptian museums in showcasing prehistoric material culture as representative of the longest portion of Egyptian history.

# 46. Sählhof, Martin

German Archaeological Institute Cairo (DAIK)

# Valentin Boyer

École du Louvre, Paris

# Omar Kassab

DAIK

## *Cultural Heritage and Site Management of the Elephantine Archaeological Site*

The site management of Elephantine aims to preserve the archaeological and architectural heritage of this unique site, while didactically presenting it in all its complexity to the wider public. Elephantine reveals over 4,000 years of history of an ancient Egyptian town, covering all Pharaonic periods, up to the early Middle Ages. While ongoing excavations are taking place, the site is open for visitors who can currently see built reconstructions such as the sequence of the temple of the goddess Satet and adobe buildings in the residential and economic quarters of the town. A particular challenge is the preservation of adobe structures that have formed a 12-metre-high settlement mound. Given the evident changes in climate conditions, research-based methods are being developed to improve the resilience of traditional building materials towards increased rainfall and humidity. This research project involves the redesign and restructuring of the existing presentation of the site of Elephantine, while including the latest preservation methods and technologies. The museography is a crucial aspect of the project to serve a specific objective: to provide contextualizing visual and textual information according to historical, political, social, economic, environmental, and topographical specificities and to transform the site into a didactic and pedagogical place based on most recent scientific knowledge.

# 47.   Said, Lama

Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (Esala), University of Edinburgh

## *The Coloniality of Heritage Conservation in Postcolonial Egypt: Unveiling Luxor's Avenue of Sphinxes*

The current hegemonic heritage discourse emerged in Western Europe in the context of 19th century modernity and nationalism and travelled to other parts of the world through colonial expansion. In Egypt, this discourse developed first as part of colonialist and imperialist agendas and later amidst rising nationalism and decolonial efforts. This paper aims to retrace the development of this heritage discourse in colonial and post-colonial Egypt by studying the unveiling of the ancient processional Avenue of Sphinxes connecting the temples of Karnak and Luxor in Luxor Governorate in the South of Egypt. The project, which is the culmination of efforts that spanned decades, is complex and multi-layered and was consistently part of large-scale comprehensive plans for the development of the city of Luxor. The urban and social structure of a commercial and residential area  at the heart of Luxor was severely disrupted to uncover the avenue with the aim of transforming the area into the largest 'open-air museum' in the world. Using the excavation of the Avenue as a microhistory, this paper interrogates how heritage is constructed, which heritage is valued and why, with the aim of highlighting the continuing entanglement of heritage with coloniality in postcolonial Egypt. To situate the uncovering of the Avenue in its historical and geographical context, the paper will first explore colonial perceptions of ancient Thebes, and by looking  at the excavation of Luxor temple, it will reflect on how conservation was approached in colonial times. Building on this, the history of the excavation of the avenue will be retraced within the wider context of the city, in an  attempt to understand how colonial notions and practices of heritage are reproduced in contemporary heritage conservation.

# 48.   Shaheen, Shimaa

Ph.D. Candidate, Heritage and Museum Studies (Dhms), Helwan University, Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management

## *Enhancing the Efficiency of Heritage Impact Assessments through Community Involvement in Egypt*

Historic cities are distinguished by their unique, complex, and dynamic nature. A pivotal issue facing historic cities in Egypt is pursuing the balance between heritage preservation, and urban development requirements. This dilemma resulted in adopting approaches that segregate urban development from heritage management.  Given the fact that people represent the core of historic cities' uniqueness, complexity, and dynamism, they are also the most affected by the mentioned dilemma.  Many efforts have been made lately on a global level to address the issue, which varied between seeking ways to reconcile the separate and conflicting requirements or offering the need for a radical change in concepts dealing with historic cities as an indivisible whole. One of the latest outcomes of such efforts is offering an intellectual approach that was adopted and called for widespread adoption by international organizations working in the field of heritage preservation, led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), called Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). HIA was presented basically as a tool for assessing the potential impacts of development projects on the environment and heritage. Through years of practice and studies, the approach was developed to include community participation as a pivotal factor in achieving an effective HIA.

This research deals with the issue from a local perspective, trying to build on the outputs of international experiences and examine the potential of applying the HIA approach within the Egyptian context. The current research highlights the key challenges facing HIA-related practice, with a focus on community participation. The research's long-term objective is to establish a framework that enables HIA as an effective management tool for historic city management in Egypt.

# 49.   El-Shayeb, Yasser

AUC

## Suhaila Ahmed
Raquda Foundation For Art and Heritage, Alexandria

## Rawda Abdelhady
Raquda Foundation For Art and Heritage, Alexandria

*Geographical Information System (GIS) as a Tool for Management of Maritime Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Case of El- Max Area in Alexandria*

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) have emerged as a management tool for decision support systems during the last decade of the 20th century. With the "democratizsation" of free Google maps in 2005, everyone that has an internet connection was able to add a spatial dimension to his/her data and  attributes. It was not earlier than the 2000's when "layers" of information about cultural heritage sites started to appear in the GIS communities around the world, with more and more information being added and augmented to those layers. In this paper, we are presenting a novel idea, where the team was able to work (with the support of the Honor Frost Foundation) on the documentation of the maritime tangible and intangible cultural heritage elements that is under threat of disappearance at El-Max coastal area, west of Alexandria in Egypt. The team was able to identify various maritime tangible and intangible cultural heritage elements enduring threats of disappearance in the area and to identify the spatial dimension of those elements. Using an open-source GIS system (QGIS) with Google maps as base layer, we were able to draw the contour of the areas containing those maritime tangible and intangible heritage cultural elements, and document those findings. Paving the way for a further Risk Assessment study on the area and a holistic approach for maritime tangible and intangible cultural heritage management.

In this paper, we will present the various steps that the team has taken to document the maritime tangible and intangible heritage cultural elements, the heritage elements' zoning, and the first presentation of the spatial dimension of the maritime tangible and intangible heritage elements in El-Max.

# 50.  Shehab, Mahmoud

Faculty of Nano Technology, Cairo University

*Testing Chitosan Nano Composites as Eco-Friendly Hydrophobic Coatings for Lime and Sand Stones*

The durability of stone monuments is a constant problem as their decay through weathering is irremediable and endless. Fortunately, coatings are becoming more and more efficient and tailored to specific alterations of the stone material. This study is aimed  at developing an ecofriendly coating with both hydrophobic properties based on nano composites emulsion as a water repellent. Chitosan was added  at different concentrations to the water repellent and its efficacy was tested in the laboratory. Intuition Hydrophobic treatments on stone surfaces are the most common ones that have been shown to prevent deterioration of stone structures and artworks, caused by the identification of water, especially in the case of stones. Chitosan Composites achieved a good performance, thanks to the combination with the sandstone and the water repellent. The hydrophobic domains in chitosan are very stable.

The hydrophobic domains in chitosan are very stable. The properties of coated stones and the efficacy of the formulation were assessed  at single doses of coating with limestone and Sandstone. The results showed that the dose gathered all requirements to both preserve the stone monument with a weak color change over time and to reach higher contact angle and a good hydrophobicity.

# 52. Warner, Nicholas

ARCE

## *Conservation and Site Management at Abydos: The Osireion and Merenptah Tunnel*

In 2023, a new project at Abydos was launched by the American Research Center in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the World Monuments Fund, and the United States Agency for International Development. The initial focus of the project is the documentation, conservation, and presentation of the Osireion and Merenptah Tunnel, although a long-term goal is the development of a wider site management plan that will address critical issues across the full extent of this vast heritage landscape. This presentation will showcase the results of the first six months of work at the site which has included 3D survey by laser-scanning of the entire complex, structural conservation of stone elements at the Osireion, and archaeological clearance in advance of future conservation and visitor-related interventions. The clearance has revealed, in addition to a corpus of decorated sandstone fragments from the Tunnel and a collection of Hieratic and Demotic ostraca, significant features to the north of the Osireion that relate to the transport and installation of the massive masonry blocks from which it constructed.

# 53. Zagorac, J. Luna

Perimeter Institute

## *Digital Skies for Ancient Contexts: Using Python to Investigate Stellar Data from Ramesside Star Clocks*

Astronomical data from ancient Egypt is plentiful: from the imperishable stars of the Pyramid Texts to the Dendera zodiac, evidence of people watching, recording, and utilizing stellar motions exists in the funerary and temple context. In order to posit how deeply the same stellar observations were embedded in the wider Pharaonic culture of a given time period first necessitates a deeper understanding of exactly how some of these data were produced, as well as their purpose. at the ARCE Annual Meeting in 2021, I first presented decanOpy: a Python-based code for mapping the motion of stars, which I then applied to the "decanal star belt" theory of Neugebauer and Parker (1960) in the context of decanal star tables. Here, I will present recent updates to decanOpy expanding it as a valuable tool for archaeoastronomical research, especially when used with existing tools such as Stellarium. I will also discuss the differences between several astronomical models in recreating the night sky around 1300 BCE and how much they may affect possible interpretations of existing primary source material. Finally, I will discuss work in progress with Professor Sarah Symons (McMaster University) on using decanOpy and Stellarium to interpret Ramesside Star Clocks. Found in the tombs of Ramesses VII and Ramesses IX, Ramesside Star Clocks depict stars arranged in a 7-position grid above a kneeling human figure, perhaps suggesting a more direct observational origin of the star pattern than in the case of diagonal star tables. This makes them the ideal starting point for using digital tools and technologies to recreate the Egyptian sky based on ancient data in the modern age.

# 54. Elzawy, Hassan

ARCE

## *Jewish Monuments: Emblems of a Past Forgotten*

Egypt boasts a diverse range of heritage sites that are considered emblems of Egypt's rich cultural heritage. With that comes the responsibility of protecting, preserving, and presenting these sites to the public. Cultural heritage protection is not only about safeguarding the past, but also a strategy towards building the future. The varied use of cultural heritage in contemporary society can be dictated by various non-archaeological factors and stakeholders with conflicting or complementary goals.

This presentation assesses the shifting and expanding use of Egyptian cultural heritage in the last century. The relationship between Egyptian nationalism and cultural heritage is first discussed. A special focus is given to the recent use of Egypt's Jewish heritage in the globalized 21st century. Various site management projects are assessed such as the Rav Moshe Synagogue, Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue, the Basatin Cemetery, and the Ben Ezra Synagogue. The resulting trend shows that Egypt's cultural heritage has been utilized to reimagine perceptions of a shared cultural identity, on a local and global level, which directly serves Egypt's touristic and therefore economic benefits.

# POSTER
# ABSTRACTS

# 1. Abdelhady, Rawda

Raquda Foundation for Art and Heritage

## *Non-destructive Analyses to Evaluate the Deterioration of Underwater and Coastal Limestone Due to Climate Change at Coastal Heritage Sites on the Mediterranean in Egypt*

A large part of the architectural and structural heritage of the ancient cities was built on the sea coast, especially in the Greek and Roman eras. The environment of coastal heritage sites on the Mediterranean in Egypt is affected by climate change in terms of climatic parameters such as sea level rise, weathering, land movements. These effects cause long-term and short-term damage, such as acidity and erosion, which consequently affect the preservation and conservation of coastal cultural and natural heritage sites in the Mediterranean. The topographical and chemical changes caused by climate change are still continuous, and affect the maritime and underwater sites, especially stone. The causes of damage on maritime and underwater stones caused by climate change are environmental, chemical, physical, and biological. These effects produce different deterioration factors affecting the stones.

An experimental study was carried out to compare the deterioration factors of climate change on coastal and underwater-logged stones, by using non-destructive devices, such as multispectral imaging (UVM VIS, IR 850 mm),  atR-FTIR and Spectrophotometry. The analyses aimed to study some of the types of damage that occur to underwater and coastal limestone. The research project consisted of a comparative study between the underwater logged limestone that was excavated from different depths, and coastal limestone samples that were submerged in sea water  at different depths. The reason for choosing limestone is that it is the standard stone material used in studying different types of damage, so it was important that the studied stone material be from the same type, which is limestone, in order to facilitate the application of all the study during the specified period. The analyses contributed to determining the conservation methodologies and techniques of maritime and underwater stones, as well as achieving in-situ preservation. The experiment was divided into two parts: analysis of underwater-logged stone, and limestone that was placed in the same site  at a 12-meter depth, simulating the marine environment. The vulnerability and acidity of the stone were studied. The analyses revealed different results according to the type of stone, the degree of acidity resulting from the presence of the stone in a volcanic area, the temperature of the water, and the level of depth  at which the stone is located under the water.

## 2.  Abo Bakr, Ammar

(Mahrousa Association) and Iman Hamam (Independent Researcher)

### *Living Heritage and the Mahrousa Association*

Since its inception in 2007, the Mahrousa Association has maintained a critical and community-based approach to Egyptian heritage and culture. Named after the village of Mahrousa, where the founders acquired and renovated a house to serve as a center for educational workshops and exhibitions, the organization has brought together artists, architects and community members to ensure the preservation of specific and unique aspects of Egyptian heritage and culture. The group later acquired a second house in New Gurna designed by Hassan Fathy, father of sustainable architecture in the Middle East, which they also modified in line with critical consideration of the meaning of space, structures and building materials. The Association's vision of the relationship between art, culture and architecture continues to be a central concern. This poster will first present the history of the Association and its founding principles as evidenced in the work conducted in Upper Egypt and beyond. It will then bring into focus the work and research conducted by myself and other members of the Association that has preserved and revived unique aspects of hajj wall paintings as a tradition and practice that has suffered neglect due to Islamic fundamentalist views that emerged in the 1970s.

# 3. Elshahawi, Almoatzbellah

Conservation Department

## *Characterization and Conservation of an Ancient Mirror Excavated in Tura El-Asmant, Governorate, Upper Egypt: A Multi-analytical Study*

This poster will present the results of a technical and multi-analytical study using various techniques on an ancient mirror in the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). The mirror was discovered at the Tura El-Asmant archaeological site in the governorate of Cairo, Upper Egypt. The mirror has been stored at the GEM Conservation Center with accession number GEM. No. 40220 and dates back to the Late Period. It is 13.04 cm high, 12.7 cm wide, 4.54 cm thick, and weighs about 264.4 g. It is unengraved with any decoration. The mirror is in poor condition and its whole surface is covered with corrosion layers which required suitable cleaning and conservation treatments in order for it to be preserved and displayed in the GEM.

The primary goals of the current study are to identify the various types of corrosion and deterioration that have degraded the mirror using multiple techniques including radiography, portable X-ray fluorescence, and metallography examination which allows compositional analysis and provides information about the manufacturing technique in order to determine the most suitable method of conservation. The poster will explore the mirror's past and present condition, documentation and cataloguing procedures, and conservation techniques. It will also include preservation and storage recommendations.

# 4. Ezz El-Din, Dina

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels.: Tourist Guiding Department,
Alexandria University

## *Sweet and Pleasant: The Carob Tree in Egypt.*

## *Between Past and Present*

The carob tree has a very rich cultural history and is still economically significant due to its numerous uses. Carob's name in Latin, "Ceratonia siliqua L." is derived from the Greek "keras" (horn) and Latin "siliqua" (small). It is a member of the legume family (Fabaceae). It is an evergreen tree that is widespread throughout the Mediterranean region. It grows on the poorest soils and loves heat and drought. The tree is attested in ancient Egypt since the 12th Dynasty; its pods and seeds were fund at Gurob and Kahun. Objects made of its wood were also found during this period. The pods and seeds were crushed up and added to beer as an ingredient, or used whole as animal feed. Cakes made of carob flour were known as well. The Egyptians also used carob as a sweetener. The hieroglyph for sweet (nDm) in ancient Egyptian was inspired by the carob pod. This word formed a number of expressions in the ancient Egyptian language which referred to kindness, cheerfulness and friendliness. Moreover, carob was used by the ancient Egyptians to manufacture the resinous adhesive used in mummification. Its seeds and pods have been found in some burials, and the tree figured in some tomb scenes.

Carob is still planted in Egypt and the sweetness of its pods is still valued. It is used to make sweet beverages especially in Ramadan.

The study aims at tracing the use of the carob tree in ancient Egyptian society and the value it had from ancient to modern times in Egypt. It also aims at highlighting its heritage significance.

# 5. Gomaa, Rehab
## Noha Hamdy
## Marwa Abd Alaal
## Marwa Alaa
## Dina Ragab

Manial Palace Museum and Conservation Lab,
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

### *How to Protect the Spirit of Heritage in Photographs in the Age of Digitization*

This paper will propose the idea of preserving the cultural heritage represented in photographs and protecting it for future generations. This precious heritage informs about people, historical events, and precious moments. This poster will focus on the digitization of photographs. Digitization is the process of converting information such as text, photographs, audio and video files, into digital format.

To create digital cultural heritage one must determine the object (historical photo) and its documentation. Early intervention and preventive conservation are also necessary, in addition to determining the different methods of display and storage. It has become important for museums to have high-quality websites. Museum websites are concerned with digitizing the museum's collections in order to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage. They also serve to communicate and interact with the public, in educational and entertaining methods.

There are three basic digital repository functions, the first of which is the acquisition or capture of digital content; the second is the storage and management of digital content; and the third entails the retrieval of digital content and creation of deliverables (or what can be done with the digital content). Hardware and software are needed for this process. Based on this idea, this poster will study around 70 photographs which date back to the era of the Mohammed Ali dynasty and include images of European kings and princes. These photographs all bear the accession number 34 and are stored in the Manial Palace Museum. They are of utmost importance, which is why their digitization is a priority.

# 6. Ibrahim, Bassem

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

*Taposiris Magna: Preservation, Management and Valorization*

Taposiris Magna is an archaeological site situated at 45 km, south-west of Alexanderia, on the northern shore of Lake Mariout. The city of Taposiris Magna was the capital of the Mariotic region during the Ptolemaic period. This complex possesses various archaeological structures that date to the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods. These vestiges are of different natures and functions. The religious architecture is represented in Isis Temples and the basilica. The habitations and the baths (thermes) represent the civil architecture. The Hellenistic and Roman tombs are examples of funerary constructions. This is such an interesting site that is in a very good state of conservation and expresses many periods of the ancient history of the area, with its cultures and activities. A site management project became a necessity to preserve the site. This project is based on three axes: preservation, site program, and valorization. It recommends indispensable procedures that aim to preserve the site and open it to visitors. A restoration plan, facilities, and visitor services strategies should, therefore, be applied.

# 7. Kamal, Samar Mostafa

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Minia University

# Doaa A. Motaal
Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Minia University

## *The Doll: A Cultural Heritage from Ancient Egypt*

Many examples of wooden and clay string toys and dolls have been found in the tombs of the ancient Egyptians. These figurines appeared as early as the Predynastic period (ca. 4000 BC), and particularly during Middle Kingdom. They had many designations such as "female figurines", "paddle dolls", and "fertility figurines". They were found in groups and commonly with different other objects, such as musical instruments or other toys.

These female figurines continued in the Graeco-Roman period, but in a different way. The original and traditional types of figurines returned in the Byzantine and Islamic periods.

This is a descriptive and analytical study arguing that the present doll is regarded as intangible cultural heritage, which seems to have been inspired from ancient Egyptian figurines, branding the ancient Egyptian doll as an iconic legacy related to the heritage of humanity and Egyptian identity. Additionally, it argues that authentic dolls produced by souvenir workshops are a desired local manufacturing product, and doll-making is a sustainable profession to be preserved by future generations.

# 8. Omran, Wahid

Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Fayoum University

## *El-Salamuni Necropolis of Akhmim: Great Heritage Significance at Risk*

The El-Salamuni Mountain was the main necropolis of Akhmim during the Graeco-Roman period. It contains painted tombs showing the mixture between Egyptian, Hellenistic, and Roman funerary art. The necropolis is still relatively intact and largely archaeologically unexplored. Very little data concerning the tombs has been scientifically and systematically published. Most prominently among those features is the largest number of zodiacs and astronomical scenes from a necropolis in Graeco-Roman Egypt. The tombs are suffering from the continuous illicit looting by the local communities as well as the environmental threats which caused great vulnerabilities in the tombs. Most of the tombs are still accessible, doorless, and generally not well preserved This is partly due to chaotic excavations, tomb robbers, and negative human intervention. The effects of wind erosion are the most damaging and the most important factors regarding the weathering and deterioration of the tombs. The bird droppings and nesting, which distorts the walls of the tombs, is one of the most dangerous threats to the tombs. The tombs were later nestled and used as shelters for the Coptic people, consequently, heavy soot is covering the tombs. First aid and rehabilitation of the tombs is necessary for the preservation of one of the most important necropolises during the Graeco-Roman period. The paper highlights the various threats to the necropolis, as well as shows the previous investigations and the conservation treatments that have been undertaken in tombs C1 and C4.

# 9. Soliman, Dalia Mohamed

Institute of Tourism and Hotels, Alexandria

## *The Heritage of Ancient Egyptian Baking*

In both ancient and modern Egypt, bread is considered the principal food in the diet of a great majority of Egyptians. Modern Egyptian bakers have maintained various working tools, such as the circular coarse sieve to clean the grain from impurities, the mortar and pestle to pound the grain, and clay ovens to bake the bread in rural areas. There are many commonalities between ancient and modern bread-making techniques. The modern Egyptians follow the same manufacturing techniques and working steps as their ancestors. This study highlights the significance of the inherited similarities between ancient and modern bakers by focusing on the inherited raw materials, manufacturing steps, and tools. The research aims to clarify the role of female bakers, particularly those who reside in rural areas, as they are the greatest preservers of baking heritage. On the other hand, it explains some inherited traditions of bakers and bread making from Ancient Egypt, in addition to exploring some inherited kinds of bread from Ancient Egypt.

# SPECIAL DECOLONIZATION SESSION

The True Of Voice: Readings Of The Eloquent Peasant
(Presentations By
Amr El-Hawary and Ahmed Osman, Readings By Akram
Mostafa and Hamza El Eily)

# 1. El Hawary, Amr

University of Bonn

## *The True of Voice: The Question of Cultural Representation*

Decolonizing the Egyptian past is about the question of cultural representation nowadays. Egyptology as a scientific discipline was born in the context of western imperialism in the 19th century. The important achievement of deciphering the Egyptian language was the result of long research and personifies the triumph of modern science over medieval occultism.

The representation of Egypt was from the very beginning a product of western scholarity. Beyond the essentialist polarization of two groups the contemporary cultural theory discusses the complexity and heterogony of cultural representations dealing with the plurality of cultural appropriations with different motivations (scientific, patriotic, esoteric etc.). The issue of who speaks depends on their perspective of representation (class, race, gender, etc.). The main issue is the asymmetric power of representation. What about the question of cultural representation in ancient Egypt itself?

Why The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant?
Different voices from ancient Egypt have reached our time through preserved ancient Egyptian texts. Voices of kings and the social elite are represented in texts like the kings' novels or self-presentations on tombs from the different epochs of the long Egyptian history. We also have examples of other voices like the Nubian voice of Piy(anchi) who was rewriting the history of the Egyptian victorious past from a Nubian point of view. We also have the unique voice of the eloquent peasant expressing the world view of a simple man from Ancient Egypt searching for truth and justice towards the powerful. This unique text thematizes the power of words and the importance of advocating for one's own interests. It is a struggle of voices to be heard which highlights the necessity of having two or more views to gain harmony through balanced reasoning.

# 2. Osman, Ahmed

University of Cologne

## *The True of Voice: Cultural Translation*

Through more than two hundred hours of workshops, participants discussed, analyzed and translated the ancient Egyptian Hieratic primary source, through several levels, into final Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Egyptian colloquial Arabic (ECA). First, a schematized consonantal transcription using Arabic alphabets was used for the transliteration of the text, since the project is to be presented to contemporary Egyptian audiences. Although the Egyptological phonological reconstruction of the ancient Egyptian language is still far from being certain, transliteration into the Arabic alphabet builds on their affiliation to the Afroasiatic language family. For example, phonemes like (ع) and ḥ (ح) are available in both languages. Moreover, the absence of written vowels in ancient Egyptian is similar to that of the Arabic writing system.

Secondly, another layer of individual comparative lexical word-to-word translation into Egyptian Arabic is added while preserving ancient Egyptian syntactic structure. This linear translation aims to identify ancient Egyptian idioms and expressions which have parallels in Egyptian Arabic. The result is a better understanding of the ancient Egyptian idioms and expressions by 'reading' them through contemporary Egyptian lenses.

A third layer of translation presents the text in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) which is the contemporary Egyptian formal language. Like MSA, Middle Egyptian, the language of the text, was the artificial written medium for poetics, literary and religious texts and not the language of DAIly communication.

Finally, the fourth layer of translation represented the meaning in Egyptian colloquial Arabic to revitalize the text for interaction with contemporary Egyptians. This translation is an inter-semiotic one, which mediates between the spoken colloquial Egyptian Arabic of everyday life and the poetic dense Egyptian language of folklore songs and poems. This inter-semiotic translation attempts to present the performative correlation of humanistic messages of written text using the techniques and mechanisms of performative acts.

# 03. Mostafa, Akram

Avant-Garde Theatre, Cairo

*The True of Voice: Performative Reading*

The great humanistic values are similar in all cultures and in all times and remain the main motivation and justification of almost all human behavior. As an actor, my participation in the ongoing workshop for the translation of an ancient Egyptian text into the contemporary Egyptian spoken language is a unique experience that deserves to be presented to the professional audience in this conference. The performative act of reading The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant allow both the actor and the modern Egyptian audience to take part in the hidden chiastic rhetoric of the Egyptian peasant, which is swinging in his successive complaints to the governor between caution, confrontation, and beseech. Pursuing justice, his protest turned from an individual case of a common peasant into a hymn glorifying humanistic values of justice and truth, an echo from ancient Egypt which is resounding through thousands of years.
The performance will include a presentation of the hieratic text from the original papyrus. A hieroglyphic transcription, transliterations in Arabic and Latin characters, as well as an English translation of the text will be projected onto the screen, parallel to the Arabic recitation.

# EGYPTIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE NOW

التراث الثقافي المصري الان