The ARCHE Foresight Workshop. Insight into the Future

Tuesday, 4 April 2023, From 14:00 to 18:00 (CET) – Online Workshop

METHODOLOGY AND CONTEXT: Engaging with the Discussion

The interactive workshop engages diverse stakeholders and aims to enrich the first findings of a peer-reviewed Foresight for Heritage study undertaken by ICCROM.

It is a component of the ARCHE project. It aims to uncover future trends and challenges for cultural heritage research and innovation in order to convey ARCHE's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for cultural heritage in Europe.

The workshop is the outcome of a cooperative team effort between numerous institutions, including the Dutch Research Council (NWO) as the task leader, the National Research Council of Italy-Institute of Heritage Science (ISPC-CNR), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK Research and Innovation (AHRC-UKRI), and the Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine (FSP).

Before the workshop, participants have been provided with preparatory materials and instructions on how to participate actively in the discussions. Below is a summary of the shared **Preparatory Materials**, a description of the interactive digital tools used (the **Conceptboard**) and an overview of the themes and issues that participants in the various breakout sessions are expected to contribute to (the **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**).

The Preparatory Materials

Participants have been provided with **executive summary of the Foresight for Heritage study** undertaken by ICCROM, along with a slide deck with some background information, and '**driver cards**' with a summary for each theme. Participants are encouraged to look through the cards and reflect on how the drivers and possible counter-trends listed might play out, and what their possible implications for heritage might be in their area of expertise. We ask you that they reflect on a 15-year horizon, envisioning the potential situation in c. 2038. Although the workshop cannot cover all of these topics, the materials will serve as a stimulating starting point for the discussions.

The Conceptboard

During the workshop, an interactive Conceptboard is being used. This is an online whiteboard where participants are encouraged to leave their ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, and visions for the future of heritage by writing them on digital 'sticky notes'. The Conceptboard remains open for 48 hours after the workshop, in case participants have more ideas or wish to get inspired by the comments of others. The Conceptboard has a dedicated space for each of the breakout sessions, as well as for two themes from the Foresight study that are currently not included in the workshop (Research & Legal). There is also a space that can be used for any additional themes or topics that participants feel are important to discuss.

The Breakout Sessions

Each workshop participant has been assigned to the breakout sessions, taking into account as much as possible their stated preferences and/or background. It has not been possible to place everybody in their preferred sessions, and that not all disciplines have been easy to connect with the breakout session topics. Nonetheless, valuable contributions can still be made by participants even if the topic is not their area of expertise. The Conceptboard is available for participants to share their thoughts on any of the other breakout session themes, and it is encouraged to do so. Moderators will guide the conversation during the breakout sessions, while notetakers will input ideas and remarks directly into the Conceptboard. During the breaks, participants will have the opportunity to supplement these notes with their own.

In the 1st breakout session, we will explore key drivers of change and their potential impact on cultural heritage. These are organised according to a STEEP (Societal, Technological, Environmental, Economic and Political) framework, which forms the focus of the five parallel discussion groups.

In our discussions, we will consider the nature of possible future changes, and what implications these may have for heritage, looking out over a 15-year horizon (i.e. the possible situation in c. 2038). In the face of future change, what new needs might heritage serve, what challenges could it face, and what new roles might it take on?

1.1 Social: Changing Societies

Our societies are changing on account of widespread and largescale demographic shifts that are already underway. In this session, we will reflect on the nature of these changes, and how they might impact cultural heritage in the future, and what new roles it may be required to take on. How might the communities of the future consider heritage, and how will they engage with it, what needs will they have of it – and what implications might this have for the ways in which we care for it?

1.2 Technological: the Digital transformation

Technological development is moving ever more rapidly, impacting the ways in which we live, work and interact. In this session we will explore how future technologies and in particular the digital sphere might affect our notions of cultural heritage and ways of interacting and caring for it, and what possible new challenges and roles for heritage may arise.

1.3 Economic: Global Economics and Policy

The global economic outlook seems increasingly uncertain, with likely shocks ahead, fuelled by climate change and political tensions, affecting the future stability of our economies. From many quarters calls are increasing for a paradigm shift in policy thinking, away from models predicated on growth towards regenerative economics and wellbeing. What implications might such possible wider economic developments hold for heritage?

1.4 Environmental: the Climate Crisis

The climate crisis is the defining challenge of our era. However, its potential impacts for heritage are in many ways not certain. In this session, we will consider how climate change might affect cultural heritage and heritage institutions, and what possible new challenges, obligations, and roles this might bring.

1.5 Political: Shifts in Geopolitics

Global geopolitics have enormous influence in shaping the world we live in, particularly in determining collective responses to the major challenges of our time. At this moment, the world is experiencing a particular moment of flux, with likely deep and long-term changes to power dynamics, and differing styles of governance and citizen engagement. At the same time, local and group politics are also evolving, and play an increasing role in the political discourse. In this session, we will consider how the politics of the future might impact heritage, and the political roles it might play.

The 2nd breakout session will explore possible opportunities for action through which heritage could help shape responses to the emerging challenges discussed in the 1st session. These are organized into 5 areas of potential action: Evidencing Impact, Wellbeing, AI, Sustainability and Resilience, and Lifelong Learning, which are the focus of the five parallel discussion groups.

In our discussions, we will consider in light of the possible future changes and implications for heritage discussed in session 1, what opportunities for action might emerge – again looking out over a 15-year horizon (i.e. to the possible situation in c. 2038). In the future, what key opportunities might emerge through which heritage can

help to build more sustainable and equitable futures?

2.1 Evidencing Impact

What kinds of impact might the heritage sector seek to deliver in the future, and how important will it be to evidence these impacts? In this session we will explore, the nature of these possible impacts, how they might be evidenced, and importantly, what potential opportunities evidencing impact could present, for both heritage and the communities it serves.

2.2 Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a strongly emerging topic, as a transversal issue that cuts across many policy areas. In this session we will consider, how heritage might contribute to wellbeing in the future? What might a 'wellbeing approach' to heritage look like, and what potential opportunities might this bring?

2.3. AI and Culture

The potential future role of AI in human lives, and the need for public values based technologies is much discussed at present. Here, we refer to the application of AI to cultural operations as 'AI for Culture' – with the reverse being 'Culture for AI'. In this session we will explore what opportunities both of these dimensions might present for heritage, and what new roles for heritage might evolve. How might heritage contribute to shaping more equitable digital futures?

2.4 Sustainability and Resilience

In this session we will consider how heritage might contribute to sustainability and resilience in the future. Given the likely impacts of the climate crisis, what opportunities might emerge through which heritage can contribute to sustainability and resilience in the future, and what new roles might heritage take on?

2.5 Lifelong Learning

In the future, education systems will need to adapt and evolve to meet new challenges. In this session we think about the future of learning, as a vital resource for creativity and resilience. To help shape more co-creative futures, in which lifelong learning supports society as it changes, what might be the future roles for heritage?