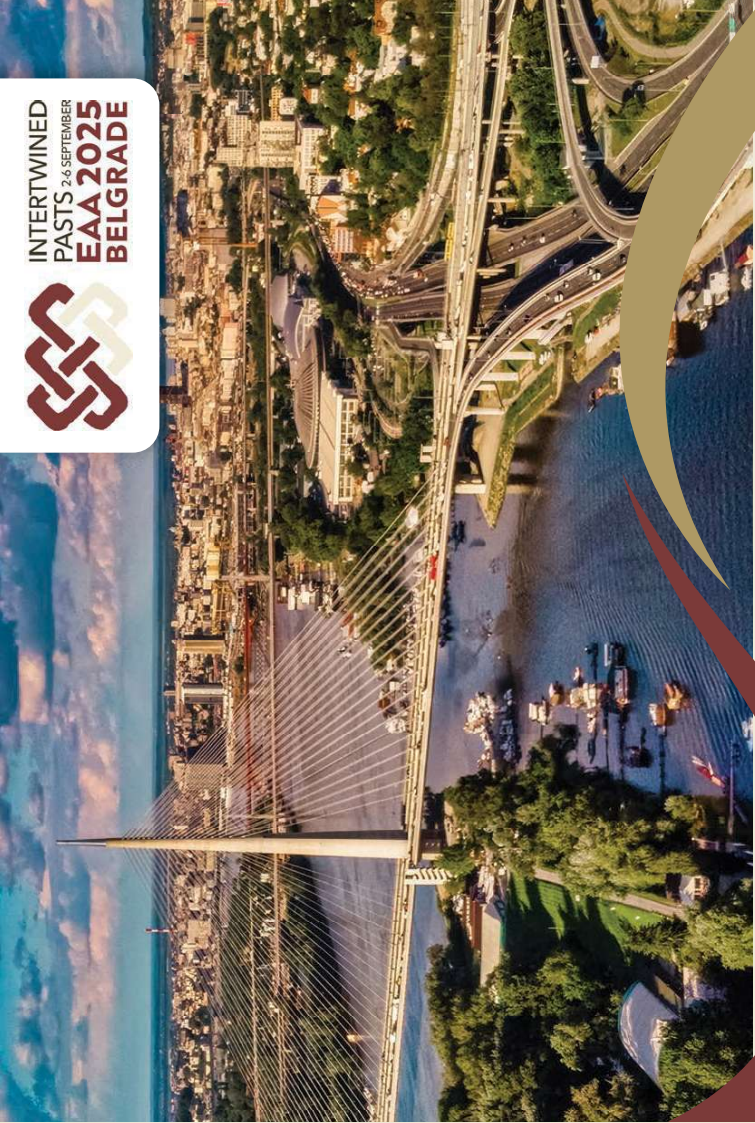




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31st EAA Annual Meeting 2-6 September 2025 Belgrade Virtual

Abstract Book

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2015. ROCKY SEASCAPE, PERCEPTIBLE AND INTANGIBLE INVOLVEMENTS IN COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Christina Marangou (Independent scholar)

In the North Aegean Sea, on the western coast of Lemnos, the Kastro headland has been occupied diachronically, at least since Late Prehistory, during antiquity and in Medieval till modern times. In several sectors, beyond impressive natural rocky features, the carved volcanic anthropogenic constructions and still perceived petroglyphs, integrated within the natural surroundings of the peninsula, display intricate complexes in a prominent setting. Current research, confirmed by surface and subsurface mobile finds, indicates that a large part of them would date from the Bronze Age and Iron Age and the main periods of antiquity, including Late Antiquity. Diachronic connections of the site complexes with the seascape and maritime facets seem obvious. However, practical, utilitarian issues, such as economic, trade and nautical matters, material functionalities and activities may not always be obvious, therefore suggesting plausible connections to intangible, including ritual and symbolic, practices or performances. In marginal, transition areas, such as hilly coasts and sea borders, influences from liminal processes are to be expected constantly, including till recent and present times, in the whole island, as attested by ancient texts, myths and local oral tradition. Both utilitarian concerns and symbolic behaviours constitute integral parts of life in successive human communities, past and present, in a permanency of meaningful places. While research continues and many questions remain open, the present paper examines features of the rocky seascape with possible parallels, integrating archaeology and oral tradition, considering various conceivable approaches and directions of interpretation in a continuity of collective memory.

191 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES: FROM KNOWLEDGE TO PLANNED CONSERVATION

Session theme: 7. Climate Change in the Past and Present
Session format: Regular session
Session keywords: Climate Change, Historical Built Heritage, Archeological Heritage, Risk management, Planned Conservation,
Session organisers: Valentina Russo (University of Naples Federico II | Head of the Post graduate School of Specialization in Architectural Heritage and Landscape SSBAP) – Andrea Ugolini (University of Bologna Alma Mater Studiorum) – Cristina Gonzalez-Longo (University of Strathclyde Glasgow)

SESSION ABSTRACT

The effects of Climate Change (C.C.) on cultural heritage have become a major contemporary challenge. The consequences of these changes impact not only the environment but also affect historical built heritage. In this context, archaeological sites are an emblematic example, constituting a complex, layered palimpsest of historical, cultural values that must be preserved for future generations. It's a legacy, «of fundamental importance to humanity in identifying its cultural and social roots». So reads the Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage, drafted by ICOMOS in 1990. A «fragile and non-renewable heritage» as it mostly consists of assets in the state of ruins. Constant exposure to natural risk factors, combined with the effects of C.C., increasingly threatens the integrity and authenticity of archaeological sites. In the international research landscape, the scientific community has increasingly emphasized the importance of integrating cultural heritage into C.C. mitigation and adaptation policies. This approach is promoted through a range of instruments, including the UNESCO report and numerous projects, which highlights the need to protect and enhance cultural heritage as a key component of collective identity. In this context, planned conservation emerges as an essential approach to effectively addressing the challenges posed by C.C. This strategy involves the planning of compatible and sustainable interventions grounded in thorough cognitive and diagnostic analysis of archaeological heritage. The goals of the session focus on promoting an active dialogue between parties involved in the protection and management of cultural heritage and international stakeholders. It aims at promoting stronger connections between archaeological research and conservation actions, thereby improving strategies to manage risks and vulnerabilities associated with C.C. The session will discuss applicable methodological guidelines that consider the specific vulnerabilities of archaeological sites to climate-related threats, to be integrated into operational frameworks for cultural heritage management.

CONTRIBUTION ABSTRACTS

980. CLIMATE PATTERNS AND EFFECTS IN EARTHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF EASTERN SPAIN: INSIGHTS FROM A DECADE OF DATA

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Sergio Manzano-Fernández – Camilla Mileto – Fernando Vegas López-Manzanares – Valentina Cristini (PEGASO Research Centre, Universitat Politècnica de València)

Climate change has marked a turning point in the approach to conserving and protecting all types of architecture, although archaeological contexts introduce a set of particularly vulnerable factors, including disuse or the absence of original construction protections. The current unpredictable and evolving scenario caused by extreme climatic events has forced a redefinition of paradigms, leading to a potential acceleration in structural loss and greater challenges in damage prevention. The scarce preserved earthen architecture of past societies, whose fragility is even more threatened in scenarios of partial collapse and severe climatic affection through desertification, torrential rain or flooding, stands out as one of the most urgent concerns for the elaboration of preventive conservation plans. This paper aims to compile climatic data on rainfall and temperature over the last ten years in three archaeological sites along the Spanish Mediterranean coast with earthen construction remains in varying degrees of intervention and degradation. To achieve this, nearby climatic stations and historical site records have been consulted, in order to track their temporal evolution, reflecting on the methodological limitations of analyzing short data series for a long-term processes. Based on this, an analysis is elaborated reflecting on the maximum and average annual rainfall patterns over time, sometimes preceded –or not– by prolonged drought periods, as well as the variable effects on earthen structures under different conditions.

279. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES: THE PORTUGUESE POINT OF VIEW

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Gertrudes Branco – Leonor Rocha (CHAI/IA/Universidade de Évora)

Climate change is a global problem that requires a concerted response from the international community and appropriate action at the local level, as discussed at the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP28 - held in the United Arab Emirates at the end of 2023, or integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. Due to its geographical location, Portugal is one of the European countries most vulnerable to climate change, the effects of which are being felt in the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, heat waves, floods and storms. Official data from the Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere) show that there is growing concern about the increasing frequency of meteorological droughts in recent years, some of which have lasted for more than one wet period (autumn and winter) and one dry period (spring and summer) and have affected an increasing percentage of the territory. The 2016/2017 meteorological drought stands out for its severity, an event that worsened significantly at the beginning of autumn (on 31 October, 25% of the territory was in severe drought and 75% in extreme drought), in an unusual way and with damaging consequences for the territory. In this context, we propose to take stock of the impact of climate change on Portugal's archaeological heritage, which, as a component of the human environment, is competing for space with, for example, agriculture, forestry and the facilities needed to produce renewable energy. These components are undergoing profound changes due to water scarcity, increased fires, increased afforestation and deforestation, and the urgent need to overcome the country's dependence on fossil fuels.

910. PROBLEMS CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASED RAINFALL ACIDITY AT GREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN HISTORIC CENTRES

Contribution format: Oral
Contribution authors: Stefano Gizzi (ICOMOS Italia)

Climate change and increased acidity in rainfall have given rise, in Greece, to a series of initiatives in archaeological areas within (but also close to) historic centres of varying content, some more sympathetic, others less so. Those currently underway at the Acropolis of Athens will be examined (work to consolidate the rock, which was disintegrating and landsliding, and to change the location of the internal road system, which had become muddy due to frequent rainfall, massive additions to the existing roofs to protect the Pinacoteca and Propylaea from acid rain), as well as at Epidauros and Olympia, with very extensive reintegrations. Mention will also be made of the problems concerning the adaptations of roofs, again for protection against weathering, which have become more and more pronounced in recent years, on the island of Crete by the Italian Mission in Festós (where Luigi Pernier, in the late 1940s, covered the room that was originally a small workshop with a concrete slab, now totally deteriorated) and by the Archaeological Mission of the Ecole française d'Athènes in Mallia.