

Progress Report

UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures

Period: 09/2018 – 08/2019



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Linnæus University

• UNESCO Chair
• on Heritage Futures,
• Linnæus University, Sweden

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Date: 31 October 2019*

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Manchester Museum is showing a Heritage Futures exhibition 14 December 2018 – Autumn 2021, drawing on the results of Heritage Futures Research Project and involving contributions by the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures. <https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/currentexhibitions/heritagefutures/>

Team



Dr Cornelius Holtorf, Professor of Archaeology and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University. Director of the Graduate School in Contract Archaeology (GRASCA). Project Director of 'Memory across Generations'.

Dr Anders Högberg, Professor of Archaeology at Linnaeus University. Special fields of interest are heritage studies and human cognitive evolution.

Ulrika Söderström, PhD student in the Graduate School in Contract Archaeology (GRASCA) at Linnaeus University. Special field of interest is the use of heritage and archaeological knowledge in sustainable urban development.

Dr Sarah May, Senior Lecturer in Public History and Heritage at Swansea University, special field of interest is the way children are used in future discourse.

Dr Claudio Pescatore, nuclear engineer, previously at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD, special field of interest is the preservation of memory. Affiliated Researcher at Linnaeus University and Project Coordinator of 'Memory across Generations'.

Helena Rydén, Assistant to the Chair, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linnaeus University

During spring 2019 we recruited a Post-doctoral Fellow (2 years full-time) in Heritage Futures. Dr Annalisa Bolin arrived from Stanford University and started on 1 September 2019.

Introduction

Over its first two years, the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University has been engaging in an extensive programme of national and international collaboration in research and training. We presented our work and agenda on many occasions in Sweden and around the world. We established contacts to various programmes and activities in UNESCO, to the Swedish Delegation to UNESCO, the Swedish UNESCO Commission, and began collaboration with other UNESCO Chairs in Sweden and internationally.

Over the past year we co-organized two large events in Stockholm and in Amsterdam. In this report, we document the progress made by the entire team over our second year of activities.

Background

Heritage futures are concerned with the roles of heritage in managing the relations between present and future societies, e.g. through anticipation and planning. Our work is dedicated to developing professional strategies that can enhance how heritage shapes the future. We ask questions such as: Which future do we preserve the heritage for? Which heritage will benefit future generations most? How can we build capacity in future thinking (futures literacy) among heritage professionals worldwide?

The UNESCO Chair Programme addresses pressing challenges in society. The chairs serve as think-tanks and bridge-builders between human communities, civil society, academia, and policy-making, generating innovation through research, informing policy decisions and establishing new teaching initiatives. The UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University is one of eight UNESCO Chairs in Sweden and the only one in the area of culture.

Please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions.

Cornelius Holtorf, Professor of Archaeology and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures



Map of the Chair's activities 09/2018 – 08/2019 (selection)

Activities

Information and Memory for Future Decision-Making – Radioactive Waste and Beyond STOCKHOLM 21–23 MAY 2019

Our workshop on Information and memory for future decision making – radioactive waste and beyond held 21–23 May 2019 in Stockholm brought together some 60 experts and stakeholders on nuclear waste, other kinds of hazardous waste and cultural heritage. We discussed in lectures, workshops and plenary discussion how best to preserve information and maintain memory over centuries and millennia in the context of sustainable development.

These days were the outcome of a unique collaboration between the Swedish Council for Nuclear Waste, The National Archives of Sweden, and Linnaeus University, chaired by Claudio Pescatore. Project partners included even representatives of the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company, the Swedish Radiation Authority, the Swedish Office for Nuclear Waste Review, and the municipalities of Östhammar and Oskarshamn.

The workshop was also the start-up for our new Vinnova project Memory Across Generations. As a concrete outcome of the meeting, proceedings of the workshop (edited by C. Pescatore) including a 2-page Chart containing “Guiding principles and practical goals towards preserving RK&M for future generations” are now available at <https://www.karnavfallsradet.se/en/workshop-information-and-memory-for-future-decision-making-radioactive-waste-and-beyond>.



60 experts and stakeholders on nuclear waste, other kinds of hazardous waste and cultural heritage, came together to discuss how best to preserve information and maintain memory over centuries and millennia in the context of sustainable development. Photographs Cornelius Holtorf

Thinking and Planning the Future in Heritage Management

AMSTERDAM 11-14 JUNE 2019

On 11-14 June 2019, the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures arranged the second ICOMOS University Forum on the topic of Thinking and Planning the Future in Heritage Management in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Forum was the result of a collaboration with ICOMOS International, ICOMOS Netherlands, the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture and City of Amsterdam. ICOMOS is a global expert organization that, among other things, gives advice to UNESCO on issues related to world heritage. The Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture of the University of Amsterdam hosted the workshop.

The meeting aimed at promoting to think and plan the future in heritage management.

- How do we perceive of the future?
- Which future do heritage professionals work for?
- What heritage will be needed in the future (and how do we know)?
- How can we build capacity in future thinking among heritage professionals worldwide?

What became clear in the discussions is that cultural heritage is something that is emotional and personal.

“*When planning the cultural heritage for future generations, we need to think more about how our work will affect future generations, or whether it is above all our own emotional desire to take care of the cultural heritage that governs. We probably need to think a lot more about what we do when we take care of the cultural heritage in society.*

CORNELIUS HOLTORF, Professor of Archaeology and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures.

The participants included academics and heritage managers, both young and established, from many parts of the world including Australia, the Philippines, India, Mexico, Brazil and Nigeria. "The University Forum gave us the opportunity to develop our global network even more, which will be useful in meeting our goals within the UNESCO profession" says Cornelius. The meeting was opened by Marielies Schelhaas, Secretary General of the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, and featured a closing address by Professor Toshiyuki Kono, President of ICOMOS International. A documentation from this ICOMOS University Forum is available at: <http://lnu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1368435/FULLTEXT01.pdf>



Participants from many countries around the world meeting in Amsterdam for the second workshop of the ICOMOS University Forum. Photograph Anneke Dekker

Education and Training

The Chair actively works with education and training to help heritage practitioners in developing their own professional strategies for the future. Over the coming years, the Chair will build on the experiences and develop training courses on heritage futures for the global heritage sector.

New courses

Heritage, the future, and how to create a more sustainable society, 7.5 credits

A new course entitled “Heritage, the future, and how to create a more sustainable society, 7.5 credits” was approved at Linnaeus University in March 2019. The course was created by Anders Högberg and Cornelius Holtorf and is designed for students at advanced level. It addresses the following issues: How are heritage and future-thinking connected with each other? What does it mean to preserve heritage for the benefit of future generations? How can we plan for the future in present-day heritage management? How might future society be improved through heritage and become more sustainable?

Toxic Heritage, 20 credits

At Swansea University (UK), Sarah May developed a new course at advanced level on “Toxic Heritage” (20 credits) and taught it during spring 2019. The course is partly based on insights gained from the Heritage Futures project and involves students considering how the management of toxic waste and the management of heritage entwine in the creation of futures.

Lectures and workshops

Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on the work of the UNESCO Chair for 15 students and their teachers visiting from the University of Stockholm. (12 October 2018)

Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on “The heritage of the future” for a group of 10 students reading the undergraduate programme at Linnaeus University in Cultural heritage in present and future societies. (26 October 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf advised a group of 3rd year students at Linnaeus University taking a degree in Visual Communication +Change for their design project on nuclear waste, which formed part of the art exhibition “Traces” at Teaterhörnet +Change Project Space in Kalmar. (open 20 December until 5 Jan 19)

Seminar by Cornelius Holtorf about the future of heritage and relevant archaeological research with 12 students working on their BA, MA and PhD dissertations in Classical Archaeology at University of Augsburg, Germany. (30 January 2019)

Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on the UNESCO World Heritage Programme for ca. 10 undergraduate students reading “Archaeology and communication” at Linnaeus University. (1 February 2019).

Lecture and seminar by Cornelius Holtorf on “The Archaeology of the Future” for 12 undergraduate students reading “Design processes and methods: time” as part of the undergraduate programme at Linnaeus University in Design +Change. (25 February 2019)

Half-day Advanced Future Workshop led by Cornelius Holtorf for the Unique historical Kalmar Öland regional development project. (19 March 2019)

Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on “Heritage Futures – that is how we best prepare for the future” at a training workshop for professionals on “The historic environment in spatial planning”, Stockholm, Sweden. (27 March 2019)

Half-day Future Workshop led by Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högberg for ca 40 civil servants managing cultural heritage in southern Sweden. (10 April 2019)

Half-day Future Workshop led by Cornelius Holtorf for 12 managers of the Culture and Leisure Department of the Municipality of Kalmar. (17 June 2019)

Research

Cornelius Holtorf (Co-Investigator), Sarah May (Research Associate) and Anders Högberg (Affiliated Researcher) completed substantial research dedicated to the theme of Uncertainty, as part of the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council)-funded Heritage Futures research programme led by Professor Rodney Harrison at University College London, United Kingdom. <https://heritage-futures.org>

The research focused on how the uncertainty of the future is conceived and managed across different domains of heritage and conservation involving nuclear waste (mostly in Sweden and the Netherlands), a space message (global, co-ordinated from the United States), a long-term storage site (in Austria) and a world heritage site (in the United Kingdom). They are each managing deep time frames that reach into the distant future.

On 13 September 2018, Ulrika Söderström defended her Licentiate dissertation [Contract Archaeology and Sustainable Development. Between Policy and Practice](#) as part of her ongoing Doctoral studies. Her research aims at improving our understanding of how heritage and archaeological knowledge can be applied in practice to meet the aims of Agenda 2030, in particular Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Since 1 May 2019, Cornelius Holtorf has been Project Director, with Claudio Pescatore serving as Project Coordinator, of 'Memory Across Generations', funded by VINNOVA (Sweden's Innovation Agency) as a Stage 1 Challenge-Driven Innovation project. The project advances work based on the insight that managing hazardous waste in the long term can benefit from relevant expertise in the cultural heritage sector. Anders Högberg participates.

Publications

Edited works

Holtorf, C., L. Kealy and T. Kono, eds (2018) *A contemporary provocation: reconstructions as tools of future-making. Selected papers from the ICOMOS University Forum Workshop on Authenticity and Reconstructions, Paris, 13 – 15 March 2017*. Paris: ICOMOS. <https://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/disseminating-knowledge/icomos-university-forum/52636-volume-1-icomos-university-forum-workshop-on-authenticity-and-reconstructions-papers-12>

Holtorf, C., A. Pantazatos and G. Scarre, eds. (2019) *Cultural Heritage, Ethics, and Contemporary Migrations*. London and New York: Routledge.



Cornelius Holtorf, Anders Högberg and Sarah May took part in an extended Knowledge Exchange Workshop with the Heritage Futures Project at Orford Ness, Sussex, United Kingdom.

Authored works

Holtorf, C. (2018) Conservation and heritage as future-making. In: C. Holtorf, L. Kealy, T. Kono (eds) *A contemporary provocation: reconstructions as tools of future-making. Selected papers from the ICOMOS University Forum Workshop on Authenticity and Reconstructions, Paris, 13 – 15 March 2017*. Paris: ICOMOS. <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1857/>

Holtorf, C. (2018) Review of R. Kiddey (2017) Homeless heritage. Collaborative social archaeology and therapeutic practice. *Heritage & Society* 11(1), 73-5. doi.org/10.1080/2159032X.2018.1465151

Holtorf, C., Q. Ma, X. Chen, and Y. Zhang (2018) The value of simulated heritage in China. *The Archaeopress Blog* 7 December 2018, available at https://archaeopress.wordpress.com/2018/12/07/the_value_of_simulated_heritage_in_china/

Interview with Professor Cornelius Holtorf. *The Zebra's Voice* 2018, special edition "Botswana Museum@50. Celebrating Our National Heritage", 92-94.

Holtorf C. (2018) Was hat Archäologie mit mir zu tun? Eine Archäologie der Zukunft. *Archäologie Schweiz* 41 (3), 24-29. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1251977&dswid=2812>

Holtorf, C. and M. Burström (2018) Archaeology and the Present. In: S. L. López Varela (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences*, pp. 68-72. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley Blackwell, and Wiley Online at <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119188230.saseas0034>

Holtorf, C. (2018) Embracing change: how cultural resilience is increased through cultural heritage. *World Archaeology* 50 (4), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2018.1510340>

Holtorf, C. (2019) Review of Stabrey, U. (2017). Archäologische Untersuchungen. Über Temporalität und Dinge (Histoire 98). Bielefeld: transcript. *Archäologische Informationen* 42, Early View, online publiziert 15. Jan. 2019.

Scarre, G., A. Pantazatos and C. Holtorf (2019) Introduction. In: C. Holtorf, A. Pantazatos & G. Scarre (eds) *Cultural Heritage, Ethics and Contemporary Migrations*, pp. 1-10. London and New York: Routledge.

Holtorf, C. and L. Colomer (2019) What is Cross-Cultural Heritage? Challenges in identifying the heritage of globalized citizens. In: C. Holtorf, A. Pantazatos & G. Scarre (eds) *Cultural Heritage, Ethics and Contemporary Migrations*, pp. 147-164. London and New York: Routledge.

May, S. (2019) Heritage, endangerment and participation: alternative futures in the Lake District. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2019.1620827>



TAG@UCL-IoA @TAG_UCL_IoA · 17 dec. 2018
Our awesome keynote Prof **Cornelius** Holtorf is starved during his visit to Chester #TAGDeva



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Dr Rachel Pope @preshitorian · 17 dec. 2018
Cornelius Holtorf: 'Archaeology has always been, and should be, not about understanding the past but about making the future'. Great lecture. #TAGDeva

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Image and comment on social media (Twitter) about the Keynote Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf, at the TAG-Conference held at the University of Chester, UK, recorded and published on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54A5fKvNhyY&list=PL39C7A34C01B44378&index=2&t=0s>

Conferences and Presentations

Presentation by Sarah May on “Nuclear/Culture: Reaching Criticality and Generating Energy by Fusing Two Realms” at the 4th Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, Hangzhou, China (3 September 2018)

Co-presentation by Cornelius Holtorf and Sarah May on “Enduring Change. Managing the Uncertainties of Cultural Heritage, Nuclear Waste, Space Messages and Long-Term Storage” at the 4th Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, Hangzhou, China (4 September 2018)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Transgressing Boundaries in Research and Practice –Why it is Critical to Apply Cultural Heritage Left, Right, and Centre” at the 4th Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, Hangzhou, China (5 September 2018)

13 Theses on how best to plan for disaster... by Cornelius Holtorf

First presented as part of the session on Disaster-led Archaeology: Anticipations and Responses to Heritage-Impacting Catastrophes, held at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Spain, September 2018.

1. Disaster risk-reduction is the area of heritage management that has probably come furthest in planning for the long-term future. That is why this topic is particularly significant to the future development of the emerging field of Heritage Futures.
2. The prospect of disaster makes us all consider carefully what is important to us, to what extent we can reduce the risk of future disasters threatening what is important to us, and how well we are prepared to mitigate the consequences of disaster should it happen.
3. Instead of focusing mainly on how to protect heritage from anticipated disaster, it would be good to think more about the potential of heritage to mitigate the impact of disaster.
4. All heritage manifests change over time. Disasters modify and create heritage, allowing important stories to be told to future generations about processes and events of change.
5. Loss and transformation of specific manifestations of heritage are inevitable outcomes of a living culture and historical development.
6. Cultural heritage that has persisted to the present-day can tell powerful stories about transformation over time. The question is not whether some of it is gone, together with the times that are gone, but how much of it has been developed and adapted to new realities.
7. Cultural heritage often witnesses how people in the past have proven to be resilient by absorbing adversity. Understanding heritage can thus build capacity to adapt and reinvent life after transformation, enhancing human resilience.
8. Understanding cultural heritage enhances the human capability to accept the possibility of loss over time – much in the same way as we all have come to accept the need to cope with the possibility of death and disaster in our personal lives. If loss and transformation do not weigh quite as heavily, a community will be more resilient to disasters that cause transformation including loss.
9. Cultural heritage can boost the human capability of adapting their lives to changing circumstances: not as reminders of tribal belongings from time immemorial but as inspiration for the need to embrace uncertainty and the human potential to keep developing over time.
10. Cultural heritage should not be seen as precious remains of the past, manifesting inherent values and timeless qualities, bequeathed to us but now threatened. Cultural heritage is a tool of facilitating changes that improve peoples' lives under new circumstances and thus enhance cultural sustainability.
11. An increased resilience including the capacity to deal with transformation and loss of specific manifestations of cultural heritage can help people to adapt to new circumstances and absorb adversity in their own lives.
12. Increasing human resilience and the capability to absorb adversity can be achieved by lessening psychosocial dependencies on past certainties while at the same time fostering curiosity, resourcefulness and entrepreneurship in relation to the uncertainties of the future.
13. As far as disaster relate to heritage, the most important risk could be that the heritage has not sufficiently prepared the people affected to accept change, be able to adapt, and realize their capability to move on.

Presentation by Ulrika Söderström on “Excavating a Sustainable Future: Archaeology and Social Sustainability in the Målerås Glassworks Project” at the 4th Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, Hangzhou, China (5 September 2018)

Presentation by Anders Högberg of a poster on the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures in the session “Disaster-led archaeology: anticipations and responses to heritage-impacting catastrophes” at the European Association of Archaeologists Conference in Barcelona, Spain (5-8 September 2018).

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Cultural heritage, preservation and the future” for the Association of Museum Directors and Curators in West Sweden Annual Meeting on Museums in the Future – a mission impossible? (14 September 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf ran a 2-hour session “Managing Heritage Futures” at the 5th Herma Conference on Heritage Management in Athens, Greece. (21-23 September 2018)

Chairing by Cornelius Holtorf of a panel debate on Critical Heritages of Europe at the conference Who is Europe? of the CoHERE project in Warsaw, Poland. (23 November 2018)

Invited Keynote Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf, presenting The Antiquity Lecture, on “Applied Archaeology: From Historical Development to Sustainable Development” at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG), one of the biggest archaeological conferences in the UK, held at the University of Chester, UK. (17 December 2018)

Presentation by Sarah May on “Weeping Angels, heritagisation and being 'of the past'” at the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology annual conference in Glasgow, UK (24 March 2019).

Invited Keynote Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on “Cultural heritage, nuclear waste and the future: what’s in it for us?” at a symposium on “To keep or to let go?”, held by Zeeuwse Ankers at COVRA (Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval), Vlissingen, Netherlands (13 April 2019).

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf and Anders Högberg on “Cultural heritage, nuclear waste and the future” at the ICOMOS University Forum on Information and Memory for Future Decision-Making: Radioactive Waste and Beyond, held at Stockholm, Sweden (21-23 May 2019)

Keynote Lecture by Cornelius Holtorf on “Heritage and the Future – where are we heading?” at the ICOMOS University Forum: Thinking and Planning the Future in Heritage Management, held at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (11-14 June 2019).

Presentation by Sarah May on “Heritage and Future Generations” at the ICOMOS University Forum: Thinking and Planning the Future in Heritage Management, held at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (11-14 June 2019).

Cornelius Holtorf took part in the First International Symposium of UNESCO Chairs in Anticipatory Systems, Futures Studies and Futures Literacy at the University of Trento, Italy. He presented the work of our Chair for an audience of 60 participants who had come from as far as Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and Chile. Among them were chairholders and staff of six other UNESCO Chairs from Finland, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, UK and Uruguay. The symposium was followed by a separate meeting discussing the establishment of a Global Futures Literacy Network. (19-21 June 2019)



Cornelius Holtorf and Ulrika Ferenius, Sweden's Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO in Paris, while visiting the Swedish Delegation to UNESCO and OECD, talking about future plans and activities.

Other activities

Cornelius Holtorf was accepted as an Associate Member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee of Risk Preparedness (ICORP). (October 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf, Anders Högberg and Sarah May attended an extended Knowledge Exchange Workshop with the Heritage Futures Project at Orford Ness, Sussex, UK. As part of the event, Holtorf chaired a discussion on “Managing heritage: averting loss vs embracing change”, whereas May chaired a discussion on “More heritage: coping with profusion”. Orford Ness, Sussex, United Kingdom. (1-4 October 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf organized and chaired a plenary discussion on creative tourism and a plenary workshop on “Managing Heritage Futures” at the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (ICIP) conference on Critical Issues in Heritage Interpretation and Sustainable Tourism, Florence, Italy. (23-25 October 2018)

Cornelius Holtorf attended the first meeting of the Swedish UNESCO Chairs at the Swedish UNESCO Commission in Stockholm. (29 November 2018)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “The Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Future” at the Annual Staff Day of West Sweden’s Heritage Authority Västärvet in Gothenburg, Sweden. (6 December 2018)

Humpodd Live with and about Cornelius Holtorf, his research and the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures — recorded (in Swedish) in front of ca. 120 employees at the Faculty Day of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden. <https://humpodd.wordpress.com/2018/12/19/humpodd-live-att-grava-i-framtiden/> (12 December 2018)

Presentation by Sarah May (with Nadia Bartolini) in a Workshop on Gender and Rewilding at Exeter University, UK. (18 december 2018)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Lessons for the Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) from Heritage Futures” at a Workshop on Information, Data and Knowledge Management of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) at the OECD, Paris, France. Claudio Pescatore attended. (23 January 2019)

Cornelius Holtorf visited the Swedish Delegation to UNESCO and OECD in Paris and talked about future plans and activities with Sweden’s Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and OECD, Ulrika Ferenius. (25 January 2019)

Presentation by Anders Högberg at a workshop in Stockholm, organized by the Swedish National Heritage Board in order to discuss how the new Swedish Museums Law has been implemented. (29 January 2019)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “Archaeology as Time Travel and the Future of the Past” at the Altertumswissenschaftliches Kolloquium, University of Augsburg, Germany. (29 January 2019)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “The Archaeology of the Future” at an Interdisciplinary Roundtable on policy concerning research funding for the Archaeology of Recent and Modern Periods, organised by the German research funding agency DFG, Berlin, Germany. (20 February 2019)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on “World Heritage and the Future” for the World Heritage Council of the World Heritage site Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland, Mörbylånga, Sweden. (1 Mar 2019)

Cornelius Holtorf was invited to contribute to an expert workshop on Cultural Heritage and Change, organised by the Funding bodies Riksbanken Jubileumsfond and Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation in preparation of an international call for research funding, to be launched later this year. (2/3 May 2019)

Manchester Museum is showing a Heritage Futures exhibition 14 December 2018 – Autumn 2021, drawing on the results of Heritage Futures Research Project and involving contributions by Holtorf and May in particular. <https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/currentexhibitions/heritagefutures/>

Cornelius Holtorf contributed to revising the Zero Draft of the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group’s Outline of Climate Change and Cultural Heritage. (Spring 2019)

Cornelius Holtorf took part during April and May 2019 in extended deliberations about the most appropriate response of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to the fire at Notre Dame.

Cornelius Holtorf met with Professor Riel Miller, in charge of the UNESCO Futures literacy programme, to discuss future collaboration, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (24 January 2019). This led to his participation in the First International Symposium of UNESCO Chairs in Anticipatory Systems, Futures Studies and Futures Literacy at the University of Trento, Italy. (19-21 June 2019)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on "Is cultural heritage future-proof? Critical ideas on archaeological heritage, cultural identity and the limits of our thinking for the future" at Institute of Near Eastern, Free University Berlin (21 February 2019) and Heidelberg Centre for Cultural Heritage, University of Heidelberg, Germany. (25 June 2019)

Cornelius Holtorf met with Adèle Nibona, Head of Culture, and Nseno Sunday Emiem, Programm specialist for cultural heritage, at the UNESCO Regional Office, in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss issues of mutual interest and collaboration. (17 July 2019)

Presentation by Cornelius Holtorf on "Heritage and the Future" at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. (24 July 2019)

Cornelius Holtorf sent a written comment to the Swedish National Heritage Board concerning its Draft National Strategy for World Heritage 2020-2030. (19 August 2019)

Time travel to the future

The Chair on Heritage Futures commissioned from Kalmar Country Museum in Sweden a role play involving time travel to the future. They are very accomplished with the time travel method and designed during the autumn of 2018 a travel to the year 2068 discussing future heritage and associated key questions about the present.

This resulted in media coverage, a full written report by Ann Norlin in Swedish, at <http://lnu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1302987&dsid=-5472>, and a youtube film with subtitles at https://play.lnu.se/media/t/o_egacqijt.

At the time of writing, the time travel to the future has been run three times.



Watch the film https://play.lnu.se/media/t/o_egacqijt

Swedish Television News reported on time travel to the future with pupils from Kalmar, Sweden.

<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/smaland/tidsresa-pa-museet-i-kalmar>



Rollspelare i aktion. Antikvarie Adam Norman (till höger) har gjort många tidsresor, men aldrig tidigare framåt i tiden. Foto: Agneta Gustavsson

De tog framtiden till Kalmar

Publicerad 5 december 2018

Hur ser Kalmar ut om 50 år? Kan man över huvud taget bo på Varvsholmen när vattennivån höjts med ett par meter? Ja, det var frågan när Kalmar läns museum idag gav sig iväg på en tidsresa... Inte bakåt i tiden som man brukar. Utan framåt.

På Kalmar läns museum pågår just nu ett projekt där deltagarna får testa ett framtidsscenario 2068.

Resan inleds med en initiationsrit. Ett antal människor står i ring i det bleka decemberljuset på Varvsholmen. De håller varandras händer och lyssnar till ledaren som i tanken förflyttar dem 50 år framåt i tiden. Till 2068.

Vetenskapligt projekt

Det ser andäktigt ut, kanske lite flummigt rentav. Men det här är ett vetenskapligt projekt som Kalmar Läns Museum har fått i uppdrag av Unescoprofessor Cornelius Holtorf vid Linnéuniversitetet.

Museifolket har tidigare gjort flera "tidsresor" och tanken är att testa om samma metodiska arbete skulle kunna fungera även vid forskning om framtiden:

– Vi har rest till stenåldern, medeltiden och sekelskiftet, men det här är nog första tidsresan vad jag vet som går till framtiden, säger antikvarie Adam Norman.

"De har ju facit"

Projektet utförs i form av ett rollspel. Enligt det scenario man arbetar efter kommer förutsättningarna för Kalmar att ha ändrats radikalt till år 2068. Vattennivån kanske är mer än 1,5 meter högre än idag. Varvsholmen omges av höga skyddsvallar för att man ska kunna fortsätta bo där.

Men ska man det? Ja, det var en av diskussionsfrågorna för dagens deltagare.

På torsdag ska ungdomar från Paradisskolan i Nybro göra samma tidsresa som de vuxna gjorde denna dag. Kommer deras slutsatser att se annorlunda ut?

– Många av eleverna som deltar i morgon kommer ju att uppleva 2068. Så de har ju facit, säger Adam Norman.

List of abbreviations

AHRC - Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK

COVRA - Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval

ICIP - ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage


ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites

ICORP - ICOMOS International Scientific Committee of Risk Preparedness

NEA - Nuclear Energy Agency

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

UNESCO - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



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