



قمة العلا العالمية للآثار



AlUla World
Archaeology Summit

AlUla World Archaeology Summit

13-15 SEPTEMBER 2023 | ALULA, SAUDI ARABIA

Lost & Found: Unearthing Ancient
Wisdom for Modern Challenges

September 15, 2023 | 10:05am -
10:50am



◆ Session Briefing ◆



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I. FOUR KEY THEMES

IDENTITY

Exploring the intricate relationship we have with our heritage and connection to the past, and how archaeology shapes our personal and shared identities in an increasingly globalized world.

- **Shaping identity** – In the modern world, in which many conventional definitions are obsolete, how can archaeology challenge and expand identities of self, of family, of communities, and how can archaeology collaborate with other disciplines to do so?
- **The archaeology of connections** – The ancient world was more interconnected than many think: how can archaeology reveal ancient connections and help to understand present day connectivity? What new methods and/or technologies can be applied or developed to do so?

RUINSCAPES

Exploring archaeological paradoxes, practices, and dilemmas.

- **Ourselves in ruins** – Acknowledge the effects of archaeological and conservation practices on physical and mental health and how can technologies, medical advances, new practices, etc promote well-being.
- **Let it go** – When archaeologists discard artifacts, they must take into account several factors, including the historical context of the artifacts, their significance, and the resources required for their preservation. They must also consider the impact of discarding artifacts on future research and scholarship.
- **Build a new scape** – What do non-archaeologists suggest archaeologists prioritize, do, solve, change, and how can non-archaeologists contribute to actualizing the actions once decided?

RESILIENCE

Exploring wisdom of the past which has much to teach us, and highlighting challenges that need to be overcome.

- **Building on ancient foundations** – What practices of the past can be adapted to inspire, encourage, and enhance resilience?
- **Is the discipline of archaeology (still) useful?** – Identify ways to enhance resilience of archaeological and heritage theories and practices.
- **Protecting the past for the future** – How can heritage management support the survival of the tangible and intangible past?

ACCESSIBILITY

Exploring the past as a universal right by traversing topics of diversity, disability, and financial access to heritage.

- **The past as a universal right** – How can archaeology and heritage studies enable abilities to access and appreciate the past in whatever way(s) an individual is able or chooses to?
- **Disability and diversity** – How can technology, engagement, resources, etc, be employed to enable greater representation?
- **Archaeology beyond academia** – There is a responsibility to tell the stories of the past beyond professional conferences and peer-reviewed publications. How can available or new technologies and methodologies assist in wider dissemination?

II. PROGRAMME AT-A-GLANCE

		13 September			
		TIME			
		16:00 - 17:30	Registration & Check-in		
		19:30 - 22:00	Welcome Reception & Official Dinner		
		14 September			
		TIME			
		09:15 - 09:25	Welcome Remarks		
		09:25 - 09:35	Introductory Talk		
		09:35 - 09:45	Keynote		
IDENTITY		9:45 - 10:30	Panel The Shape of Us: Archaeology, Identity, and Culture		
		10:30 - 11:15	Panel Archaeology Weaves an Interconnected World		
		11:15 - 11:30	In Conversation Exploring Archaeology of Modernity and Identity Building		
		11:30 - 11:45	COFFEE BREAK		
		11:45 - 13:15	Knowledge Exchange (8 Parallel Sessions)		
		13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH		
RUINSCAPES		14:30 - 15:15	FUTURE FORUM	14:30 - 15:00	Archaeology & Identity
		15:15 - 15:45		15:00 - 15:30	Future Archaeologists
				15:30 - 15:45	Archaeology & Media
		EXCURSION			
		15 September			
		TIME	EXCURSION		
		09:30 - 09:50	COFFEE BREAK		
		09:50 - 10:05	Keynote		
RESILIENCE		10:05 - 10:50	FUTURE FORUM	10:05 - 10:50	Digital Archaeology
		10:50 - 11:35		10:50 - 11:35	Archaeology & Environment
		11:35 - 12:15		11:35 - 12:15	Archaeology & Environment
		12:15 - 13:00	LUNCH		
		13:00 - 14:15	Knowledge Exchange (8 Parallel Sessions)		
ACCESSIBILITY		14:15 - 14:30	In Conversation Accessibility vs. Authenticity: The Challenges of Digital Archaeology		
		14:30 - 15:10	Panel Digging In Together: The Future of Inclusive Archaeology		
		15:10 - 15:25	In Conversation Saving Archaeology One TikTok at a Time		
		15:25 - 15:45	Closing Segment Youth Conversation		

III. SESSION DETAILS

TIME: September 15, 2023, 10:05am - 10:50am

We kindly request that you arrive at the green room at **9:35am**. This will allow us to ensure that everything is in place and ready for your session.

FORMAT: Panel

A moderated conversation, with prepared questions, based on the suggested discussion points on the next page. There will be no opening statements - the moderator will launch straight into the conversation. The panelists are strongly encouraged to comment on each other's points rather than just answering questions from the moderator. Ahead of the event, the moderator and the panelists are invited to exchange the detailed questions they would like to discuss.

Whilst we are not encouraging use visual content for the panel discussions, should you wish to show a few images as you answer questions from the moderator and debate with your fellow panelists, please inform the programme team on program@worldarchaeologysummit.com who will be happy to advise if it will be possible to display the suggested visuals.

MODERATOR:

Lama Alhamawi, Reporter, Arab News

SPEAKERS:

- Prof. José M^a Martín Civantos,, MEMOLab, Biocultural Archaeology Laboratory, University of Granada
- Prof. Derek Kennet, Department of Archaeology, Durham University, UK
- Pietro Laureano, Architect, Town Planner, and CEO, IPOGEA
- Sophia Malik, Architectural Designer,

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Lost & Found: Unearthing Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges

From sustainable practices employed by ancient civilizations to ingenious problem-solving techniques, the session will highlight how heritage practices can assist in navigating modern issues such as climate change, urban planning, agriculture, waste management, and more. Join our panel of experts as we embark on a journey to discover the hidden potential of ancient practices and unlock a new realm of possibilities for building a sustainable future.



III. SESSION DETAILS

KEY TALKING POINTS & FOCUS QUESTIONS:

Context:

The session will put a spotlight on the remarkable resilience embedded within sustainable practices and ingenious problem-solving techniques of ancient civilizations. The panelists will shed light on how these age-old practices can offer guidance amid modern challenges. As we negotiate formidable hurdles such as climate change, urbanization, agriculture, and waste management, this session unveils the power of heritage practices in offering sustainable solutions.

The discourse is elevated by the gathering of seasoned experts, each bringing their unique perspectives to the table. Their collective journey through the annals of history unearths time-tested methods, rooted in resourcefulness and adaptation, which hold the potential to address pressing contemporary issues.

As attendees engage with this dialogue, they are empowered to perceive the interconnectedness of the past and present. The session encourages participants to reimagine the trajectory of modern endeavors by drawing inspiration from the successes and resilience of ancient civilizations. It demonstrates that the solutions to some of our most pressing problems might lie within the echoes of the past. Through the fusion of ancient wisdom and innovative vision, this panel opens a gateway to a sustainable future where heritage practices emerge as invaluable resources in our pursuit of resilience and harmony. This can expand the horizons of applied heritage and the modern applications that can elevate our contemporary lifestyles to foster potential solutions for modern problems.

Guiding Questions:

Can you provide specific examples of such ancient practices and how they can be applied in the context of contemporary issues? Are there initiatives around the world that are implemented at larger scales and not just the experimental level?

How can the fusion of ancient wisdom and innovative vision contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future? Are there instances where heritage practices have already been successfully integrated into modern solutions?

Moderator



Lama Alhamawi

Bio not available

Lama Alhamawi
Reporter
Arab News



Speaker



**Prof. José Mª
Martín Civantos**
MEMOLab,
Biocultural
Archaeology
Laboratory,
University of
Granada

Prof. José Mª Martín Civantos

Associate professor on Medieval History and Archaeology. Specialized on Islamic Archaeology and Landscape Archaeology. Responsible for the MEMOLab, Biocultural Archaeology Laboratory at the University of Granada (Spain).

He developed his academic career primarily in Spain and Italy, having the opportunity to benefit from interdisciplinary and fruitful research environments, and establishing strong links with the scientific community. This lasting relationship, resulted in the development of a strong multidisciplinary collaborative network. This research network facilitated collaboration and information exchange, nurturing his research interests and widening theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of historical landscapes analysis, medieval construction techniques in relation to spatial organization, the application of new technologies to Archaeology and Community Archaeology and participatory approaches.

He is particularly interested on historical relationships between humans and nature and the use of natural resources for the creation of socio-ecological systems. He has worked mainly on historical and traditional irrigation systems still in use as examples of sustainability, resilience and governance. This effort has resulted not only in an academic research, but in an active advocacy for community and local authorities' involvement in the protection, restoration and reuse of tangible and intangible heritage as strategy for local sustainability and socioeconomic development.

Speaker



Prof. Derek Kennet
Department of
Archaeology
Durham University,
UK

Prof. Derek Kennet

Professor Derek Kennet is based in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University in the UK. He researches the archaeology of the Gulf and Indian Ocean from prehistoric times to the modern period, particularly during the Sasanian and Islamic periods. He has conducted fieldwork in many countries in the region, including the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and India. Working with the Palace Museum, Beijing, his current research looks at the development of Indian Ocean trade between China and the Islamic Middle East from the Tang to the early Ming period and the role of Arabia in that trade.

Speaker



Pietro Laureano
 Architect, Town Planner, and CEO IPOGEA

Pietro Laureano

Pietro Laureano architect, urban and landscape planner is a UNESCO consultant on arid areas, water management, Islamic civilization, traditional architecture, and ecosystem restoration.

With over 35 years of international experience is one of the world's leading experts in heritage, restoration and urban management. He coordinates and manages projects for UNESCO, the EU, and his company IPOGEA (www.ipogea.org) in several countries. He rates among the top experts in water management, traditional technologies and desert oases, by he promoted and restored.

He coordinated archaeological excavations in Italy, and Saudi Arabia, and designed archaeological parks. His visions and realizations have been models all around the world. Among his great successes was the regeneration of the ancient troglodytic city of Matera in South Italy which was completely abandoned and now is a world example of the best practice of urban recovery; the restoration of the canals, drainage and terraced fields of the site of Lalibela in Ethiopia; the Oasis and visitors centre of Al Ain in Abu Dhabi UAE.

He teaches "Traditional Knowledge and Innovation" at the University of Florence (Italy). He has over 150 publications in several languages.



Speaker



Sophia Malik
 Architectural
 Designer

Sophia Malik

Sophia Malik is a British architectural designer and engineer specialising in climate resilience, exploring the adaptive reuse of heritage and low-carbon design. Currently working at ARUP, she holds an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Cambridge. Her research thesis, titled 'Heritage not Inherited', focused on hybrid bamboo and earth architecture in Pakistan and its potential as a catalyst for a new material culture of repair and maintenance. During her time at Cambridge, she conducted fieldwork in Karachi with Barefoot Architect Yasmeen Lari of the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan.

Sophia's philosophy entails crafting spaces that seamlessly blend existing structures with nature. Using ancestral techniques, artistic inspiration, and natural elements to construct immersive environments, the results prioritise form and perception, while ensuring minimal environmental impact. This approach unites the past and the present in the pursuit of a sustainable future.

In 2022, Sophia was awarded the prestigious Kenzo Parfums x BambooU scholarship, furthering her research of bamboo architecture in Bali. She also serves as a Visiting Studio Tutor at Central Saint Martins, where she teaches first-year architecture.



YOUR PROGRAM TEAM



Tina Schneidermann
Program Team
+33 6 07 25 07 33
+966 55 694 4021
tina.schneidermann@
richardattiasassociates.com



Sana Chowdhry
Program Team
+966 53 971 5622
sana.chowdhry@
richardattiasassociates.com



Reema AlThuwaib
Program Team
+966 54 725 8871
reema.althuwaib@
richardattiasassociates.com



Reema Hiddawi
Program Team
+966 54125 022
reema.hiddawi@
richardattiasassociates.com



Meriem El Atouabi
Program Team
+971 58 572 2405
meriem.elatouabi@
richardattiasassociates.com



Wael Nabbout
Program Team
+966 53 467 6663
wael.nabbout@
richardattiasassociates.com

YOUR LOGISTICS TEAM



Otmane Laenser
Logistics Team
+971 52 627 8184
otmane.laenser@
richardattiasassociates.com





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