



Una-Her Chair  
&  
Transnational Research Teams (TRT) on Cultural Heritage  
Academic Year 2022-2023

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**WORKSHOP 2**  
**Cultural heritage and local population involvement in (urban) peripheries**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
University of Edinburgh

**CALL FOR INTEREST EXPRESSIONS**

[Una Europa](#) brings together 11 major European universities: Freie Universität Berlin, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, University of Edinburgh, University of Helsinki, KU Leuven, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University College Dublin, Universiteit Leiden, Universität Zürich.

The workshop on *Cultural heritage and local population involvement in (urban) peripheries* is organized in the framework of Doctoral Program in Cultural Heritage of Una Europa, UNA-HER-DOC, and of the 4 Transnational Research Teams (TRTs) bringing together researchers from all the universities of the Alliance.

The workshop is funded by the Una Europa Chairs seed funding program. Taking as a common and transversal sub-topic the *Cultural Heritage of the peripheries*, the Chair will introduce and promote activities bringing together the community of researchers and doctoral candidates working on CH, contributing thus to the consolidation of the 4 TRTs.

**A workshop on Cultural Heritage in the peripheries from the perspective of the social capital and local population involvement**

The workshop of the [TRT3](#) is conceived as a meeting to reflect on the societal processes that involve local communities in the co-creation of “new” cultural heritage in the urban peripheries. Specifically, the workshop raises several (and possible) **topics for debate**:

- Application of participatory methodologies in relation to the processes of identification, recognition, valuation and identity appropriation of the heritage in/of the urban peripheries. Scope and limitations.
- Researching/identifying civil society, individuals and community initiatives & uses of heritage in/of the peripheries (and through it the questions of identity, social cohesion...).

- Gamification and involvement of local population in urban peripheries.
- Strategies for the enhancement of cultural heritage through the digital in relation to the engagement of the local population. How to do value to CH of the peripheries for society through digital tools?

A **full day workshop**. During the morning there will be a walkabout and a visit to a heritage site in Granton (in person). In the afternoon, a hybrid online/in person afternoon session hosted at Granton Hub will take place: participatory game, short oral presentations and debate.

**We invite you to this participatory workshop in hybrid format.** This call is primarily addressed to all researchers of TRT 3, to the UNA HER DOC doctoral students and to the master and doctoral students from the University of Edinburgh. It is also extended to other researchers from the alliance universities concerned or interested in this subject as well as to Doctoral students enrolled in one of the alliance universities and who carry out their doctoral theses on topics that converge with the WS topic.

**Call for presentations.** All participants are invited to submit expressions of interest and, if they would like, to share with the TRT3 research community a short oral presentation of their work (5-10 minutes). The presentations should reflect on the challenges of knowledge of the cultural heritage of the peripheries in relation to aspects related to social capital, community involvement, social participation... Presentations on still on-going research are welcomed!

**Registration.** If you are interested in participating, please fill this [form](#) before February 28. A few weeks before the workshop we will send the ppt template for the presentation and the final program.

For further information, please contact: [mgarciah@ucm.es](mailto:mgarciah@ucm.es)

**Workshop**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LOCAL POPULATION INVOLVEMENT IN (URBAN)**  
**PERIPHERIES**

**Rationale**

***Cultural heritage and peripheries***

The concept of periphery is the subject of a wide debate at an academic level. Periphery refers to what surrounds a certain center and is widely used in relation to the urban world (the urban periphery *versus* the urban center). But the geometric metaphor of center and periphery is also frequently used to describe the opposition between the two fundamental types of places in a spatial system: the one that dominates and benefits from it, the center, and those who suffer from it, in position peripheral. Therefore, the concept can be used at all levels of the geographic scale (center and periphery within the limits of a town, a city, a region, etc.) and it has been particularly successful at the global level, when center-periphery is equated with developed world/underdeveloped world, or North/South. At all geographic scales there is space for the analysis of the role that cultural heritage plays in relation to the condition of periphery. At urban scale, the heritage of the urban fringes is on the one hand emergent and shifting, and on the other, closely connected to equally emergent and shifting populations of citizens through tangible and intangible manifestations of heritage. Undervalued in recent years, the heterogeneous vestiges and heritages of the suburbs are beginning to be recognized by local, metropolitan and regional authorities as assets on which is possible to build new and more inclusive scenarii for local development. In this context the role of local communities are crucial. Cultural heritage is a social concept, a social label, under construction. In the urban peripheries, that are the epitome of current and accelerated social and spatial changes, heritage recognition processes by the local community can help conserve some heritage remains, but they are also instruments that generate local identity and social cohesion.

***Cultural heritage: social capital and local community involvement***

Cultural Heritage is no longer just an element of veneration assumed as such from the discourse of the intellectual elite that has developed some categories of heritage significance such as historical, evidential, aesthetic. However, increasingly a newer category of “communal value” has proven more challenging. And this category is not only related to the communal values of the nation state, but to the values of other smaller-scale communities. In this context, research is interested not only in protecting heritage, but also in exploring how we can use it to “empower society”, and “facilitate the bringing together of citizens and practitioners in co-creation processes” contributing to the formation of sustainable identities, well-being, and social cohesion. These processes are crucial for the urban peripheries where the multi-ethnic population settles. Research in

this thematic area can go beyond the issue of public engagement to enquire how heritage assets, and the processes through which people engage with them contribute to “communal” values that go beyond heritage itself. Indeed, it can explore ways in which communities go beyond working with existing heritage assets to creating new ones – or conversely, “declassifying” them. In this context, heritage comes to refer to the processes of its own creation (and destruction) as much as the things which are created or destroyed.

**This workshop aims at analyzing the triangulation of these concepts: heritage / periphery / social capital and local involvement/participation.**

**What is the role of the local community in heritage production in the urban peripheries?**

**What are the tools that can help the local community to appropriate the cultural heritage of the peripheries?**

## **SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Jen Ross, UoE, TRT 1 co-coordinator

Ruxandra-Iulia Stoica, UoE, TRT3 member

Niki Vermeulen, UoE, SSC CH

Isidora Stankowic, UP1, one of TRT3 coordinators

Edward Hollis, UoE, TRT 1 co-coordinator

María García Hernández, UCM, Una Chair Holder

## **SOME REFERENCES**

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