

## **Student presentations – titles and abstracts**

### **Frejdel Haar Bistrup, University of Gothenburg**

*Material desires: Swedish cultural heritage management, its professionals and LGBT heritage*

Positioned within trends towards more inclusive heritage practices, the cultural heritage sector has increasingly involved, included and recognized lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities and their heritage. However, the role of built heritage management in this, as well as other adjacent themes such as gender have yet to be addressed to any further extent. This presentation concerns the professional understanding and awareness of LGBT heritage in Sweden. Mapping out the unfamiliarity of LGBT heritage and ideas of LGBT perspectives within the field, I discuss this in connection to the context of Swedish cultural heritage management and heritage policy framed by a wider, general political debate centred around norm criticism and identity politics.

### **Mathias Skaset, University of Oslo**

*Queer museum perspectives: Pride Art and the radical potential of queer curating*

In today's cultural politics, it is recognized that museums should reflect the society of which they are a part, and reflect a diversity of perspectives and realities. Despite the awareness of the museums' role in society, few work to include queer perspectives in their communication work. There are still many museums that privilege heteronormative structures and narratives, and thus help to limit the possibilities for new thinking and innovation, as well as alternative narratives and forms of communication. Based on the Pride Art exhibition 2019, I fought therefore I am, I have examined the problems associated with the representation of queer perspectives in museums, and investigated what potential a queer starting point can have in the communication of art and culture. Since 1985, artists in Pride Art have organized queer art exhibitions in Oslo, but these exhibitions have so far received little attention in the cultural sector, and have never before been examined from a museological perspective. In this presentation, I discuss how queer perspectives can contribute to solidarity in museums' exhibition politics, and create more inclusion and diversity in the culture and museum sector.

### **Elisabeth Aslesen, University of Oslo**

*The Great Beyond: interpretation of gender in the Scandinavian Iron Age*

While a central aim of gender archaeology is to problematise uncritical engagement with gender in archaeology, few have engaged with the more fundamental issue of gender categorisation as a function of analysis. Gender is one of the most basic ways we make the person intelligible – as it applies to the past typically rooted in a bifurcation of differential presentation in burial into male and female. This narrow basis for interpretation is an impediment to the increasing nuance and diversity we apply to past gender in theory. A need is developing to disrupt the established patterns under which gender has so far been understood to keep in step with the maturation of gender theory within our field. It is my aim, in this presentation of the results of my MA dissertation, to discuss this fundamental issue of archaeological inquiry into gender of the past, as well as present a specific case for how gender may be more helpfully analysed from burial. In this endeavour, I trace two crucial relationships – that between material itself and the discourse which overlays it, and that between gender as a fundamentally dispersed and differentiated constellation of characteristics, and the social coding of gender which overlays it within a given society – my understanding of which is anchored in Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari's concept of *territorialisation*. In order to give a practical suggestion of how to dislodge gender intelligibility from traditional patterns of categorisation, I follow this with an application of cluster analysis to the artefactual material of 62 burials from Voss and Hardanger in Westland county (formerly Hordaland county) from the Late Roman and Migration periods.

## **Lea Pedersen, Aarhus University**

### *The Westeros Experience in Northern Ireland: Heritage and tourism experiences*

Since the premiere of the HBO-series Game of Thrones, the landscapes of Northern Ireland have often been amalgamated into a 'Westeros experience', particularly through guided tours and officially licensed deals between HBO and tourism companies.

However, the link between the often tumultuous heritage of NI and the extremely dark fantasy setting of Game of Thrones does not extend to cities such as Belfast.

Through my research, I attempt to uncover where the link between the tourist-centred GoT experience and the commonly understood heritage of Northern Ireland meet, clash, and sometimes merge.

## **Jenny Lehane, Newcastle University**

### *Doing heritage in Northumberland: Long term relationships with heritage sites and their effect on wellbeing, identity and ontological security.*

This study examines the relationship participants had over long period of time with a favourite heritage site in Northumberland. Participants visited their site at least once a year for between 7 and 70 years. This repeat visit behaviour benefits the wellbeing of participants in a number of ways encouraging participants to enact all of the five ways of wellbeing: being active, connecting, keep learning, noticing and giving. Visits reminded participants of happy childhood memories and participants developed a sense of place identity with their favourite heritage site. Some participants used their visits as a way of regulating emotions. By taking friends and extended family they increased their social capital and reinforced group identity.

Participants used historical empathy or archaeological imagination to connect to the people who lived and worked at these sites in the past. All participants developed habits or rituals that were enacted as part of their visit which may have benefits to wellbeing and ontological security. I argue that these repeat visits could be interpreted as secular pilgrimage, sustaining participants emotionally when they return to their everyday lives.

## **Jernej Gregorač, Aarhus University**

### *Marching on Memory: Heritage on the Trail of Remembrance and Comradeship in Ljubljana*

In the presentation, I will first present the background of my case study, which is the *Trail of Remembrance and Comradeship* that encircles the city of Ljubljana. This memorial trail was constructed on the route and in remembrance of the barbed wire fence that encircled the city in the Second World War. Nowadays this memorial landscape is one of the city's major recreational areas and is as such a great example of how preserving the memory of certain events can become an integral part of the city. Besides that, my case study also tackles the question of heritage not as a single-sided phenomenon, but as a combination of material traces and intangible manifestations, urban design and natural environment, city policies and community engagement, and memorial value and adaptation to its use in the present.

My thesis was divided into three separate chapters of memory, materiality and movement, each of them relevant to a certain aspect of my research. For the purpose of this presentation, however, I will especially focus on the theme of movement, which is integral to the whole heritage experience of the trail. I will also elaborate on the choice of my fieldwork methods connected to the research of movement and how I had to adapt them in the time of the global pandemic. The conclusion will be dedicated to the general findings and how this research could be included to the wider field of heritage studies.

## **Markus Nilsen, University of Oslo**

### *Reconstructing destruction: An analysis of lesion-patterns in mass graves from late-medieval warfare*

Over the last few decades, several mass graves associated with late-medieval military conflicts in Europe have been uncovered. These mass graves contained skeletons with numerous war-lesions, concentrated in the head region. In the thesis I investigated whether the characteristic lesion-patterning is unique to late-medieval warfare, by comparing it to corresponding material from other periods and regions. The results of the analysis were used together with the military history to illuminate the events that unfolded in late-medieval battles.

## **Irena Ioannou, University of Gothenburg**

### *'Difficult' Heritage: Sweden's biggest mass murder in peaceful times*

On the 1st of June, 1675, seventy-one people were beheaded and burned in three large fires on Håxberget (the "Witch mountain") in the north-east of Sweden. They had been found guilty of witchcraft, kept isolated in a cell for months and received their last communion at Torsåker church before being forced up the hill to their slaughter. The brutal deaths of the Torsåker witch hunt have been referred to as Sweden's biggest mass murder in peaceful times, and they showcase the country's 'difficult' heritage. In an attempt to expose uncomfortable pasts, this essay discusses the socio-political conditions that led to the Torsåker witch hunt, and highlights the role of the church and of torture as well as of the laws allowing children to serve as credible witch witnesses. A social justice perspective and a possible heritage nomination can serve as a reminder that forgetting "risks atrocity being repeated in the future" (MacDonald, 2009, p. 3).

## **Harrison Avery, Newcastle University**

### *A contested landscape: The Maze / Long Kesh*

The Maze or Long Kesh became an infamous microcosm of the troubles in Northern Ireland where it imprisoned thousands between the years 1971 and 2000. It has a fractured history where the memory of events which took place within its walls has become contested by all sides of the conflict. This debate over which memory should be told as a future heritage of the site has been a constant obstacle for recent proposals for this 370-acre plot of land just outside of Lisburn. My thesis project focused on using a multi-narrative perspective of the site where a series of devices were constructed to contain each narrative. The narrative was then re-projected from the device into the symbolic void between the prison and the rest of Northern Ireland which was the 'Inertia Zone'.

The devices have been constructed to the dimensions of the repetitive forms of the H-block cell window, four narratives were then chosen to be contained within this new territory: The narrative of Bobby Sands, the narrative of the prisoner's mother, the narrative of the prison officer and the narrative of the depressed prisoner.

**Adam Andersson, University of Gothenburg**

*Political uses of Great Zimbabwe*

My lecture will present an analysis of how the monument of Great Zimbabwe has been politically used during the period 2000-2020, and it shows how archaeology and the cultural heritage of Great Zimbabwe have been used for different purposes within the framework of nationalism, and by political organizations, during the period studied. Thus, the lecture focuses on the use of Great Zimbabwe during the economic downturn in Zimbabwe. The presentation will apply a theoretical perspective based in Critical Heritage studies, and it is stressed that during the period examined the monument was used in the creation of a Zimbabwean identity, an identity built on the ideals of the governing ZANU-pf party and its leader Robert Mugabe. The lecture will present a detailed analysis of the on-site use of the monument by the ZANU-pf and Mugabe during this period in the form of case studies presenting and examining three political and public events which took place at the monument. It is stressed that the monument was actively used for strengthening the party through nationalism, as well as promoting the hegemony of the party and its leader, during a period of economic problems.

**Brittini Bradford, Newcastle University**

*Exploring the Potential Misuse of Cultural Heritage During Armed Conflict Through Impacts to Iraq's Cultural Heritage During the 2003-2011 Conflict*

This paper features research exploring the potential misuse of the past during armed conflict using the Iraq example. Focusing on the case study of Mashkan-Shapir, this research utilises contemporary (often publicly-accessible) satellite imagery to provide microcosmic reflection upon the relationship between extreme artefact displacement and regional instability. It analyses and interprets observable site damage from 2003-2011 using remote-sensing techniques and GIS software for the systematic contextualisation of looting at an otherwise inaccessible site. Using these visible signs of heritage destruction and looting, this research then explores the potential misuse of the past through themes like looter preference, potential subsurface loss, and agricultural encroachment.

**Sigurd Tomter, University of Oslo**

*Quantifying houses: A space syntax and architectural energetics inquiry into Late Hellenistic houses on the island of Delos*

This master's thesis uses quantitative methods to analyse houses on the Aegean island of Delos to examine if the inhabitants used their houses to communicate ethnic and/or socioeconomic identities. Delos was an important trading city in 167 to 69 BC and attracted people from around the Mediterranean world creating a cosmopolitan society. The analytical methods of space syntax and architectural energetics are used to quantify the spatial structure of the houses and the decoration of the houses' rooms. Based on the results, the author demonstrates that social identities relating to status, wealth and prestige were the predominant concerns in Delian domestic architecture and decoration, whereas ethnic identities were more situational and context specific.

## **Marthe Yung Mee Hansen, University of Oslo**

### *Environmental Issues in a Contemporary Art Exhibition*

How does an art museum present environmental issues such as climate change through its exhibitions, and how does working with contemporary artworks as objects of display affect such presentations?

Environmental challenges with their social and political impact have increasingly manifested themselves in the cultural sphere, including in museums and the study of them. In museological literature concerning issues like climate change, engaging with art is pointed out to have unexplored potential. Aspects of art that are being highlighted include: capabilities to visualize different facets of climate change, its impact on society, and future scenarios; ability to create connections on personal and emotional levels and to bring natural phenomena and scientific data closer to human experience, culture, and history; possibility to encourage active engagement and human action; and qualities that can support a shift in museums to depend less on presenting information, and rather create and facilitate richer experiences. While this manifests how contemporary art is becoming increasingly involved with environmental issues, it is important to keep in mind that art and art institutions have specific characteristics that affect how they engage with these topics.

Factors like history and traditions; institutional ideals and missions; physical space; curatorial practices; and ways of communicating through both visual and textual elements make up characteristics of art museums. Through an analysis of the exhibition *Tomorrow is the Question* shown at ARoS - Aarhus Art Museum in 2019 this project has explored how the framework provided by contemporary art exhibitions affect the museum's presentation of environmental issues. Further, the study also goes into some of the possibilities and challenges caused by characteristics of art museums when engaging with such topics in contemporary art exhibitions.

## **Solveig Siem, University of Oslo**

### *"Go Big or Go Home, Right?" A reflexive ethnography of exhibition co-creation at the Teknisk Museum*

The use of participatory projects in order to democratize museums has gained popularity. This study follows the process of a co-creation project instigated by the project team for the Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology's upcoming climate exhibition. Nine student climate activists participated in three in-house workshops over the course of a month. The researcher challenges the traditional positivist research model through using participatory action research while acting as the project's organizer and workshop facilitator to collect data during the co-creation process. Various failures and oversights later proved to yield interesting results regarding how the project was framed, the manner in which communication occurred across cultural lines, and how decisions were made in the project. The results shed light on how and why such projects deviate from their ideal intentions while recognizing the absence of blame in this heavily social process. The author also recommends several variations to museological practice along these lines in order to further strengthen the democratizing aspect of museological co-creation.

## **Nicolaj Duus Linnet, University of Aarhus**

### *Proto-rewilding in Moesgaard Forest – P.V. Glob's vision for the Moesgaard Museum and Prehistoric Park, 1949-1980*

In the Moesgaard case rewilding was used to create a heritage experience for its visitors, in order to create a synergy between the modern museum experience and the open-air museum that was created in the Moesgaard Forest. Delving into rewilding, this presentation will focus on the project's use of proto-rewilding and rewilding aspects to create a heritage experience. As the Moesgaard Forest has been changed into different prehistoric biomes through change in plant-life, diversity and in some cases wildlife, the presentation aims to explore how this can effectively create an "authentic" heritage

experience, what the perceived problems with this method are and whether rewilding can be used for more than returning environments to their “natural” state. Using the example of the Moesgaard Forest I hope to showcase how rewilding can be used as a tool not only for restoration, but also for recreation, as well as what the pitfalls are and what the consequences can potentially be. Based on the conclusions of the thesis in question it is evident that aspects of rewilding were used in the case of the Moesgaard Museum and Prehistoric Park, thus providing proof of existence for the concept of proto-rewilding and its nature within the heritage sphere and in extension its use to create a heritage experience in the Moesgaard Forest.