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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



ECO-CULTURAL HERITAGE

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

Book of Abstracts

Eco-Cultural Heritage: Research & Education

International Conference

2–6 November 2026

České Budějovice, Czechia

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Book of Abstracts

Eco-Cultural Heritage: Research & Education

International Conference 2–6 November 2026, České Budějovice, Czechia

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PREFACE

Dear participants, colleagues, and guests,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the international conference *Eco-Cultural Heritage: Research & Education*, held at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czechia, from 2 to 6 November 2026. The conference is held under the auspices of the Mayor of the Statutory City of České Budějovice, assoc. prof. Dagmar Škodová Parmová, and is organised in cooperation with Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia.

This gathering contributes to the activities of *KreativEU*, the European University Alliance, which seeks to strengthen connections between education, research, cultural heritage, creativity, and social responsibility across Europe. The conference brings together academics, researchers, students, and practitioners from partner universities and institutions to discuss the relationships between landscape, society, culture, education, and sustainable development.

Eco-cultural heritage combines the natural and cultural dimensions of landscape and place. It highlights the links between the natural environment, historical memory, local identity, and community life. The conference provides a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and for exploring ways to study, preserve, interpret, and transmit this heritage to future generations.

The conference programme opens with keynote lectures by distinguished international experts: prof. Mauro Agnoletti (University of Florence), prof. Caitlin DeSilvey (University of Exeter), and Dr. Martin Michette (University of Oxford). The conference features approximately fifty research papers, complemented by a number of poster presentations. The contributions address a broad range of themes, from heritage, landscape, education, and environmental imaginaries to tourism, digital innovation, community participation, traditional knowledge, and heritage governance and protection. In addition to the academic programme, participants have the opportunity to explore the cultural and natural heritage of South Bohemia.

We hope that this Book of Abstracts provides an overview of the topics presented at the conference and highlights current research in eco-cultural heritage. We would like to thank all authors, reviewers, members of the Organising and Scientific Committees, our partners within the KreativEU alliance, and everyone who contributed to the preparation of this event. We hope that the meeting in České Budějovice will inspire fruitful discussions, meaningful exchanges, and new collaborations that extend beyond the conference itself.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Aleš Nováček and Vojtěch Blažek
Editors of the Book of Abstracts

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Relational Capital as Intangible Resilience Heritage in Local Socio-Economic Systems

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This paper examines the role of relational capital as an intangible heritage of resilience that safeguards the continuity of local socio-economic ecosystems during polycrises. The study proves that relational capital constitutes living intangible heritage. Its erosion directly undermines organizational adaptability, emphasizing the imperative to preserve cooperative networks in regional development strategies. In this research, quantitative methods (CATI/CAWI) were applied to a sample comprising 147 local government units and 132 businesses. The study involved a rank analysis of resource importance and determined Pearson correlation coefficients (r) to investigate the links between intangible assets and operational performance. For 31.8% of enterprises, strong partner relationships represent the second most critical survival asset after financial buffers, proving crucial during supply chain disruptions (35.9%). In municipalities, relational capital manifests as local community support (32%), bridging formal resource gaps. A strong positive correlation was identified between intangible asset deficiencies and operational disruption ($r = 0.646$ for municipalities; $r = 0.681$ for business tactical-operational alignment). It interprets established traditions of cooperation and trust not merely as operational assets, but as vital intangible economic heritage cushioning exogenous shocks.

Beyond Nature and Culture: Rethinking Eco-Cultural Heritage through Historical Landscapes

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The conventional separation between natural and cultural heritage does not adequately reflect the historical development of many European landscapes. For centuries, agriculture, pastoralism and forestry have shaped ecosystems, biodiversity and landscape patterns, creating values that cannot be fully understood independently from human activities. Historical landscapes therefore provide a valuable perspective for reconsidering the relationship between nature and culture within the concept of eco-cultural heritage. This perspective is consistent with the 2014 Florence Declaration on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, which emphasized their interconnected character and described the European landscape as predominantly a "biocultural multifunctional landscape". Historical landscapes are among the clearest expressions of this long-term interaction between communities, environmental conditions, land-use practices and traditional knowledge.

Today, these landscapes are increasingly affected by two contrasting processes: agricultural intensification, often associated with landscape simplification, and the abandonment of marginal rural areas, frequently followed by forest expansion. Both may lead to the loss of historical landscape structures, practices and knowledge. Conserving eco-cultural heritage therefore requires moving beyond the assumption that increasing naturalness necessarily increases the overall value of a landscape. At the same time, historically rich territories should not be regarded only as objects of conservation. Their biodiversity, cultural identity, traditional knowledge, food products and landscape quality can provide important resources for diversified rural economies. Recognizing eco-cultural heritage as the outcome of the historical interaction between nature and culture can support policies in which biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, food production and rural development become mutually reinforcing.

From Technical Information to Heritage Meaning: A Simondonian Approach to Historical Objects, Ruins, and Collective Memory

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This paper explores the subjective relationship between historical heritage objects, ruins, and sites of memory, focusing on the processes through which they acquire cultural value and symbolic significance. While heritage studies often emphasize the historical, material, and institutional dimensions of cultural objects, this research investigates the dynamic interaction between human experience and heritage artifacts as a process of meaning production.

The theoretical framework is inspired by the philosophy of Gilbert Simondon, particularly his reflections on information, individuation, and the mode of existence of technical objects. Simondon conceived information not as a fixed content transmitted between entities but as an operation that emerges within a process of individuation. Building upon this perspective, the paper proposes a conceptual shift from the technical and scientific object to historical, artistic, and social objects. Heritage artifacts, ruins, and cultural landscapes are understood not as passive repositories of historical facts but as informational mediators that generate new relationships between individuals, communities, and collective memory.

Through this lens, the value of a historical object does not reside solely in its material authenticity or chronological age. Rather, value emerges through ongoing processes of interpretation, affective engagement, cultural transmission, and symbolic appropriation. Sites of memory become spaces where material traces and subjective experience intersect, producing forms of collective identity and cultural continuity. Ruins, in particular, reveal a privileged mode of heritage existence, where incompleteness and temporal stratification stimulate processes of cultural individuation and remembrance.

The paper argues that a Simondonian reinterpretation of heritage contributes to a broader understanding of eco-cultural landscapes and memory sites as relational systems in which natural, historical, and symbolic dimensions are continuously co-constituted. Such an approach provides new insights into the role of heritage in shaping collective identities and sustaining long-term human-environment relationships, while highlighting the active participation of communities in the ongoing production of cultural meaning.

Technology-Integrated International Outdoor Inquiry Learning at the Jewish Cemetery in Olomouc, Czech Republic

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In the spring semester of 2025, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, held an outdoor inquiry-learning course at the Jewish cemetery in Olomouc. The course included students from Oranim College and the University of Haifa in Israel, as well as students from the Czech Republic and UK. It included background classroom lectures on Moravian Jewry and Jewish cemeteries, while the learning itself was conducted in small teams at the Jewish cemetery. As part of the course, students collected data through an application according to their research question. The data were uploaded into GIS software, through which the cemetery was mapped and the data are presented by different categories. In the present study, we examine the impact of this learning process on students in comparison with a frontal classroom course. In this presentation we will present the course structure, the learning process, findings, and the diverse implementation possibilities of this type of learning in additional university courses, in teacher-enrichment colleges, and in the teaching of various subjects in schools.

From Prehistoric Salt Production to Contemporary Tourism: Archaeology, Heritage and Community at Băile Figa, Romania

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The archaeological site of Băile Figa, located near Beclean, in Bistrița-Năsăud County, in the northern part of the Transylvanian Basin, Romania, represents one of the most significant prehistoric salt-production landscapes in the Carpathian-Danubian region. Archaeological investigations have revealed extensive evidence of salt exploitation, including wooden troughs and other installations associated with the extraction and processing of salt. These remains provide important insights into prehistoric technologies, resource management and the long-term interactions between human communities and their environment. This paper traces the changing biography of the Băile Figa landscape, from prehistoric salt production and the subsequent rediscovery of the site to archaeological research, heritage safeguarding and its contemporary development as a tourism destination. Particular attention is given to the role of archaeological research in identifying, documenting, protecting and interpreting the archaeological remains. Heritage safeguarding measures, including site signage panels, are examined alongside museum exhibition, educational activities and other forms of public engagement that contribute to making the archaeological heritage accessible and meaningful to visitors and the local community.

The paper also explores the contemporary transformation of Băile Figa through the development of a recreational and spa complex that attracts thousands of visitors each year. The coexistence of archaeological, natural and recreational values illustrates the dynamic character of heritage and the challenges and opportunities of integrating protection, interpretation, tourism and local development. Băile Figa thus provides a valuable case study of how archaeological research, heritage safeguarding and community engagement can contribute to the ongoing transformation and sustainable valorisation of a cultural landscape.

Traditional useful plants as cultural heritage in the teacher training of future science teachers (Poster)

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This paper examines the issue of teaching about traditional useful plants within the context of science education. Useful plants are now regarded as part of cultural heritage; they help to shape cultural identity and regional traditions. The role of education in this regard is irreplaceable. However, how well prepared are trainee teachers for these challenges? The main aim of this study is therefore to assess the level of knowledge among trainee teachers regarding traditional crops of economic importance, such as flax, millet, poppy, turnip, buckwheat and others, as well as medicinal plants. The use and cultivation of medicinal plants is a deeply rooted folk tradition, which is studied in many countries as part of cultural heritage. This study also assesses students' knowledge of the practical uses of traditional plants in everyday life. Based on empirical data (obtained from a questionnaire survey of 87 students), the study proposes specific didactic recommendations for practice in the development of scientific literacy and environmental awareness regarding traditional useful plants amongst trainee teachers. As part of the testing, the students' interest in learning more about these useful plants was also examined.

The Memory of Abandoned Places

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This paper is based on the theoretical part of the doctoral dissertation Traces of Abandoned Places and explores abandoned places as carriers of cultural memory rather than merely as objects of physical decay. Abandoned places are often associated with loss and the passage of time. At the same time, they preserve traces of human activity and represent an important part of cultural heritage. The paper examines urban exploration (urbex) as a way of understanding abandoned places beyond their physical deterioration, focusing on its historical development, ethical principles, and relationship to the aesthetics of ruins. The theoretical framework draws on philosophical and art-historical concepts, including the aesthetics of the picturesque and the sublime, Georg Simmel's interpretation of ruins, and the changing perception of abandoned architecture from Romanticism to the present. It also considers selected approaches to cultural heritage and collective memory. The paper argues that urban exploration is not only a means of documenting abandoned sites but also a way of preserving the memory of places that are gradually disappearing from the landscape. By recording their visual form and historical context, urbex contributes to a deeper understanding of their cultural value and highlights the importance of abandoned places as witnesses of historical change.

Memories of people and nature: StoryMaps as a tool for tracing ecocultural transformation in Cornish hedges

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Relational approaches to heritage can attempt to bridge cultural and ecological perspectives. They focus on 'ecoculture' as an assemblage that emerges from interactions between human practices, cultural meanings and memories, materials, living organisms, and the physical landscape. Under this purview, I have used a StoryMap to trace interactions between human craftwork and non-human processes as they emerge in the ecocultural assemblage of Cornish hedges. Cornish hedges are crafted stone and soil embankments that support ecological communities on and within their physical form. These structures have been actively used as agricultural boundaries for over 4,000 years in rural Cornwall, UK.

Spatial mapping, field notes, and photography of hedges along a 7km transect reveal that material memories of human craftwork and actions of living organisms continue to transform Cornish hedges for centuries. Memories of hedging craft and management were observed in distinct patterns of stone, shaped vegetation (e.g. tree coppicing, strimming), and features such as stiles, walkways, goose holes, and bridleway stones. These memory traces record a relation to specific skills and aesthetic choices of individual hedge builders and caretakers. Memories of biogeomorphic change in the hedges were reflected in seasonal plant growth (bioconstruction, bioprotection), the presence of a luminescent moss called 'goblin's gold' in badger setts and goose holes (bioturbation, bioconstruction), a song thrush's collection of snail shells in a hollow under tree roots (bioerosion, bioaccumulation), and mammalian desire lines (bioturbation and biotransport). By explicating such interactions between the ecological and the cultural, this work demonstrates how the StoryMap can guide the understanding, design, creation, and management of ecocultural heritage in such a way that human and non-human engagements are respected and recognised.

Touching the Past: Tactile Models in the Interpretation of Places of Memory

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The paper presents a long-term project developed at the Department of Art Education, Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, focusing on the interconnection between higher education, professional practice, and contemporary approaches to making cultural heritage accessible. The project centres on the creation of tactile models of selected architectural elements, works of art, and their details, enabling visually oriented cultural content to be experienced through touch. Although these models are primarily intended for people with visual or other disabilities, their potential extends beyond the framework of inclusive education and offers new possibilities for interpreting and experiencing cultural heritage among a wider public. The paper will present several specific models created within the project for important heritage sites in South Bohemia, including the Dominican Monastery in České Budějovice, Kratochvíle Chateau, and the Cistercian Monastery in Vyšší Brod. Attention will be paid not only to the process of their creation and their educational potential, but also to the possibilities of their application directly within the context of particular heritage sites and in the interpretation of sites of memory. The project demonstrates the potential of tactile models as a tool for promoting an inclusive approach to cultural heritage. By expanding traditional modes of perception, they encourage active and multisensory engagement with historical and artistic environments. At the same time, they contribute to strengthening the relationship between a particular place, its historical memory, and its contemporary cultural identity, while also illustrating the benefits of connecting university teaching with practical collaboration in the fields of heritage interpretation and accessibility.

Evaluation of analytical techniques used for the study of cultural heritage

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The aim of this study is to compare the metric systems Analytical Green Star Area (AGSA) and Click Analytical Chemistry Index (CACI) (Mansour et al., 2025a, 2025b), evaluating for the first time their applicability and convergence in the fields of archaeometry and cultural heritage conservation. Unlike traditional analytical methodologies, the study of archaeological and heritage materials is constrained by the specific restrictions of non-destructiveness and the preservation of the physical integrity of unique items, details that take precedence over pure instrumental performance. Both metric assessment tools provide complementary viewpoints for the selection of the analytical method or methods in this situation. AGSA does not take into consideration the risk of irreversible degradation of the sample, while CACI assesses museum and routine feasibility, applying the concepts of click chemistry, is excellent at giving priority to non-destructive and portable methods (i.e., pXRF, Raman, etc.), immediately assessing sample size, logistical expenses, and field mobility.

Escaping the Terrestrial: Science, Power, and Elite Escapism in Contemporary Eco-Science Fiction

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This paper investigates the complex interplay between scientific authority, political power, and ecological crisis in contemporary speculative narratives, employing Bruno Latour's concept of the "Terrestrial" (Down to Earth) as a theoretical framework. In the face of the Anthropocene, contemporary science fiction increasingly moves beyond classic catastrophe tropes to interrogate how political elites and transnational capital instrumentally respond to planetary breakdown. By conducting a comparative analysis of Ukrainian author Max Kidruk's sci-fi novels The Colony and The Collapse (from his New Dark Ages series) alongside Adam McKay's satirical film Don't Look Up, Andy Weir's Project Hail Mary, and Kim Stanley Robinson's Mars Trilogy, this study delineates three distinct models of sci-fi climate politics. First, Kidruk and McKay exemplify Latourian "elite escapism" – a trajectory where political and corporate hegemonies abandon the ruined Earth to establish off-world sanctuaries, prioritizing capital accumulation over planetary care. Second, Weir's narrative presents a technocratic counter-model, imagining a benevolent, centralized authoritarianism that empowers science to avert total extinction. Finally, Robinson's work offers an eco-democratic alternative, transforming outer space from an elite escape hatch into a contested battleground for alternative, eco-centric social orders. Ultimately, this paper demonstrates how contemporary eco-science fiction reflects and critiques current geopolitical anxiety regarding climate inertia. By positioning Kidruk's vision within a broader global canon, the study highlights how speculative literature serves as a crucial arena for renegotiating scientific responsibility, political ethics, and climate justice in times of polycrisis.

Innovative Approaches to Education about Cultural Heritage: The Case of an Educational Programme at Zlatá Koruna Monastery

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This contribution explores innovative approaches to education about cultural heritage in the authentic setting of a historical site and presents a specific example of an educational programme designed for lower-secondary school students at Zlatá Koruna Monastery. The programme responds to the need to complement traditional approaches to the interpretation of cultural heritage with active and experiential learning methods that encourage students to take an active role, discover historical contexts and develop a meaningful relationship with cultural heritage.

The educational programme combines elements of experiential education, museum education, and demonstration-based and heuristic learning methods. Through dramatization, direct engagement with authentic spaces and objects, musical accompaniment, and tasks based on observation and the discovery of connections, students become active participants in the learning process. An important aspect of the programme is also the involvement of pre-service teachers, who participate in the staged performance and provide musical accompaniment. The programme thus creates opportunities not only for intergenerational and interdisciplinary learning, but also for the practical preparation of future teachers to use innovative methods in the interpretation and mediation of cultural heritage. The contribution presents the didactic principles underlying the programme, the methods and forms of learning employed, and considers their potential application in cultural

heritage education across different levels of education. Particular attention is also given to the potential of heritage sites as authentic learning environments and to opportunities for connecting formal education with educational activities provided by cultural institutions. The example of Zlatá Koruna Monastery demonstrates how a carefully designed combination of different pedagogical approaches can contribute to engaging, visually and experientially grounded, and meaningful learning about cultural heritage.

Historical and Recent Small Water Bodies in the Weinviertel Region of Lower Austria – A GIS-Based Analysis

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As part of a preliminary study for a project on future water supply for agriculture, historical and recent small (artificial) standing water bodies (mostly ponds) in the cultural landscape of the Weinviertel region (Lower Austria) were analysed using GIS technologies to identify potential for revitalization and the creation of storage ponds. Historical water bodies from the Josephine (1773–1781) and Franciscan (1809–1818) land surveys were digitized through georeferencing (TPS—Thin Plate Spline as a transformation algorithm combined with the most accurate ground control points (GCP) possible using QGIS, Fig. 1) and aligned with recent data (OpenStreetMap, Basemap Austria, public satellite imagery). This process identified 97 (Josephine) and 92 (Franciscan) historical water bodies, of which 39 and 37, respectively, still exist today. Of the water bodies that no longer exist, 71 and 52, respectively, would be located outside settlement areas today and thus offer theoretical potential for revitalization.

In addition, recent standing water bodies (data: Environment Agency Austria) from the Josephine (1773–1781) and Franciscan (1809–1818) land surveys were digitized and 18 historical wetlands identified in the GIS analysis above were examined. Of the 1,696 standing water bodies in the project area, 401 are not clearly recognizable in satellite imagery, which limits the exclusive use of satellite imagery. During field surveys, 12 sites were also evaluated for revitalization, with GIS data supporting the selection and evaluation of the sites. The GIS-supported analysis enabled a precise spatial evaluation and provides a basis for targeted revitalization measures that highlight the potential of historic water bodies for modern water management.

Bridging Science, Heritage and Sustainability: A Student-Centred Approach to Eco-Cultural Heritage Curriculum Development

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In Romania, the incorporation of scientific perspectives into eco-cultural heritage education is becoming increasingly visible, although the field remains insufficiently structured and lacks an overarching national strategy. Current developments are scattered across specialised initiatives and limited institutional settings, yet they indicate the emergence of an interdisciplinary educational direction. In higher education, several universities have introduced master's programmes that connect heritage studies with technological innovation and environmental concerns, even when these programmes are not explicitly framed as eco-cultural heritage. Complementary digital projects have also contributed to the modernisation of heritage documentation, interpretation and management. At pre-university level, links between environmental responsibility and cultural heritage are being addressed within sustainability education, particularly through "School in a Different Way" and "Green Week", often in cooperation with museums, NGOs and heritage-site managers.

This paper examines the perceived relevance of the proposed master's programme "Sciences in Eco-Cultural Heritage" for undergraduate students, postgraduate students and alumni of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Valahia University of Târgovişte. Drawing on survey data, the study analyses three dimensions: career orientations, expectations regarding competences and learning outcomes, and preferences for teaching, learning and assessment formats. The findings supported the design of an applied curriculum that connects student perspectives with international standards and quality assurance requirements. Anchored in GreenComp, the 2018 European Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, ICOMOS frameworks and UNESCO indicators, the programme addresses green and digital transitions, community-based heritage practice, sustainable employability, cultural resilience and measurable socio-cultural impact in response to contemporary climate-related challenges and related environmental pressures.

"I Feel Myself Exalted above All That Is Earthly": Vesuvius and Etna in Selected Nineteenth-Century Women's Travel Writing

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Italy had been one of the most important destinations for Central European travellers since at least the early modern period. From the late eighteenth century onwards, increasing numbers of women from both aristocratic and bourgeois backgrounds also began to travel there. Their itineraries largely followed established patterns of travel, while southern Italy remained comparatively less frequented for some time. Its growing appeal was closely connected with the archaeological discoveries at Herculaneum and Pompeii, which transformed the Bay of Naples into a gateway to the Mediterranean and one of the iconic stages of the Italian journey. At the same time, the Enlightenment development of the natural sciences stimulated growing interest in the active volcanoes of Vesuvius and Etna. They became objects of scientific investigation, while contemporary travel writing represented them both as extraordinary natural phenomena and as part of idyllic, sublime, or Romantic landscapes. This paper examines representations of Vesuvius and Etna in selected nineteenth-century women's travel writing, including the works of Ida Pfeiffer, Fanny Lewald, and Emily Lowe. By the first half of the nineteenth century, these volcanoes had become part of the Italian journey undertaken by a number of women travellers from Western and Central Europe. Some of them went beyond the role of passive

observers of volcanic landscapes and eruptions: they undertook physically demanding ascents of the feared Italian volcanoes and subsequently transformed these experiences into literary narratives. The paper asks how these women travellers constructed volcanic landscapes through the interplay of scientific curiosity, aesthetic conventions, fear, physical experience, and the Romantic concept of the sublime. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which the experience of climbing transformed Vesuvius and Etna from objects of distant observation into affective and embodied landscapes.

Stories Inscribed in the Landscape: Tracing the Memory of Trentino Civilians Displaced during the Great War

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During the First World War, tens of thousands of inhabitants of Trentino were forcibly displaced from the southern borderlands of the Habsburg Monarchy. Many spent several years in Bohemia and Moravia before returning home after 1918. This paper examines how the experience of temporary exile, initially preserved primarily through family narratives, correspondence, diaries and photographs, gradually became inscribed into the cultural landscapes of both the Czech lands and Trentino. Drawing on concepts of collective and cultural memory and lieux de mémoire, the paper focuses on the spatial and material dimensions of remembrance. Particular attention is paid to graves and cemeteries of refugees who died in exile, commemorative monuments, memorial plaques, and, more recently, parks, street names and other toponyms created through partnerships between Czech and Trentino municipalities. In the Valle di Ledro, these dispersed traces have even been incorporated into a tourist itinerary connecting places associated with the Czech experience. The paper argues that these sites should not be understood as static remnants of the First World War, but as elements of an evolving transnational memory landscape. Their meanings have changed over time: places originally associated with displacement, death and separation have increasingly become symbols of Czech–Trentino friendship, reconciliation and local identity. The case thus demonstrates how cultural heritage emerges through the continuous reinterpretation of landscape, material traces and social memory across generations and national borders.

Narrating Cultural Otherness: The Authorial Subject and Narrative Identity in Eda Kriseová's Travel Writing

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Travel writing has accompanied Eda Kriseová throughout her literary career. During the 1960s, she published travel reportage in the Czech journals Mladý svět and, subsequently, Listy. Her journey to Japan in 1968 culminated in the publication of the travelogue Já&ponsko. During the period of Normalisation, however, both her opportunities to travel abroad and her access to official publishing channels were severely restricted. As a samizdat writer, she re-entered the public literary sphere only after 1989, when renewed opportunities for travel – including journeys to sub-Saharan Africa and India – resulted in the travel narratives Necestou slečny H. a dnešní Afrikou and Čísi svět. The contribution examines the relationship between the authorial subject and represented reality in Kriseová's travel writing. From her earliest journalistic texts onwards, Kriseová foregrounded the role of the authorial subject, who seeks to understand an unfamiliar culture through engagement with the observed world. In Já&ponsko, reality is presented partly through brief personal narratives. In the post-1989 narratives Necestou slečny H. a dnešní Afrikou and Čísi svět, however, the narrative function of the authorial subject becomes markedly more prominent. The text thus acknowledges the narrative nature of the facts, and the authorial subject presented becomes a narrator. Kriseová's travel writing thus invites readers both to reflect on the construction of the authorial subject's personal identity and to engage with the author's attempts to understand other cultures, while remaining aware that the represented world is fundamentally shaped through the author's narrative mediation.

Virtual Reality as a Tool for Developing Social and Civic Key Competences

(Poster)

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Virtual reality (VR) offers new opportunities for experiential learning and the development of key competences, including social, civic and sustainability-related competences. Its potential extends beyond first-aid education and can be effectively applied more broadly in health and safety education, where immersive scenarios enable learners to experience, practise and respond to potentially hazardous or emergency situations in a safe and controlled environment. These competences are closely linked to an individual's ability to respond appropriately to emergency situations, collaborate with others and actively contribute to the safety and well-being of the community.

One effective approach is to combine training in basic life support (BLS) with immersive virtual reality scenarios. In such a scenario, the participant finds themselves in a simulated emergency situation where another person has suffered a cardiac arrest and is required to assess the situation, initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation and respond appropriately to subsequent developments. This combination of practical first-aid training and immersive technology can enhance not only knowledge and skills in the field of BLS, but also decision-making, responsibility, empathy, cooperation and active citizenship.

VR therefore represents a promising educational tool not only for first-aid training but also for health and safety education in a broader sense, whilst at the same time supporting the

development of social, civic and sustainability-focused competences. By providing realistic but safe opportunities to practise appropriate responses to emergency and safety situations, VR can help prepare individuals to act responsibly towards themselves, others and the wider community.

Moving from Pilgrimage to Cultural Heritage Tourism in Palestine: Potentials & Limitations

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A popular idea among Destination Management Organisations, managers of tourism facilities, rural and cultural heritage resources, and local places, particularly in Palestine, is the shift from pilgrimage tourism to rural heritage tourism. This article uses the case of Palestine to examine the processes and instruments for such a change. The conceptual paper starts by discussing the trends in tourism, determinants of destination success and different trends in promoting rural and cultural heritage destinations instead of mass tourism (pilgrimage). It discusses the main argument that shifting from pilgrimage to cultural heritage raises several issues and difficulties. A complete or partial shift from pilgrimage to cultural heritage-based tourism is more than a simple product replacement. It has several consequences. The paper follows by discussing the consequences of the 'welcome' and the 'unwelcome' arguments for such change (from a pilgrimage to cultural heritage), the associated constraints and issues, and finally, two possible scenarios for such a change. This paper also explores the answer to the basic question of why there has been a shift from pilgrimage to rural cultural heritage.

Place Matters: Connecting Local Landscape, Culture, and Language Learning through CLIL

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As children increasingly engage with digital environments rather than their immediate surroundings, educators face the challenge of strengthening the learners' connections to local communities, landscapes, and cultural heritage. At the same time, foreign language education, while expected to develop not only linguistic competence but also intercultural awareness, has traditionally prioritised target cultures, with considerably less attention paid to learners own cultural backgrounds and localities. English, in particular, is widely perceived as a means of engaging with the wider world and as a gateway to understanding other cultures. Consequently, the cultural content of English Language Teaching (ELT) materials, as well as many informal channels of English language acquisition, tends to privilege Anglophone societies and offers limited opportunities for intercultural learning. This paper explores the potential of combining English Language Teaching (ELT), Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), and local and regional realia as an interdisciplinary approach to learning and a means of enriching intercultural understanding. It argues that learning about familiar places through the medium of English enables students to view their communities from a fresh perspective and with critical distance, thereby strengthening their sense of place and fostering a deeper appreciation of local environments and cultural heritage. This perspective may be particularly beneficial in rural areas, where viewing familiar surroundings through the lens of a foreign language can add a sense of novelty and discovery to places that young people often regard as too ordinary or familiar to be interesting.

The Balkans and the Ottoman Empire in the travelogues of Vítězslav Hálek

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Czech poet and writer Vítězslav Hálek (1835–1874) made his living primarily as a journalist during his lifetime. From 1861 until his death, he worked primarily in the editorial office of the newspaper Národní listy, owned by the prominent Czech politician and publisher Julius Grégr, but he also published in other periodicals. Hálek's premature death was perceived as a significant loss to Czech culture, as he was one of the most important figures in Czech literature and culture of the time, including one of the main organizers of the artists' association (the Umělecká beseda association in Prague). Julius Grégr, together with Vítězslav Hálek, were aware that travelogues were a popular reading genre, and Vítězslav Hálek – as well as another prominent writer of the time, Jan Neruda – thus printed various travel sketches and longer travel reports in the newspapers, especially in Národní listy and Hlas, which was later merged with Národní listy. This contribution, based on the methods of cultural analysis, focuses on Hálek's travelogues from the Balkans (between 1865 and 1869), which represent a dominant component in his travelogues, although he also stayed in Hungary (1873) and Galicia (1862). He visited not only the territory that was part of the Habsburg Monarchy, but also the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan states and nations that separated from it. He was not only in Constantinople itself, but he sailed on the Black Sea, visited Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, stayed on the Croatian coast and in places that today belong to Italy (Trieste). On his travels, he noticed not only monuments and nature, but also everyday life, national problems and the Czech minority in the Balkans. The focus of the paper will be on eco-cultural aspects in Hálek's travelogues.

"I ams." Environmental Motifs in the Works of Georgi Gospodinov

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The Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov has long transcended his status as one of the most acclaimed and remarkable voices in Bulgarian literature; he is now a truly European and global author. In 2023, he was awarded the International Booker Prize, and his work has been translated into 40 languages. This paper explores an intriguing paradox: environmental motifs are, in my view, omnipresent throughout Gospodinov's oeuvre, spanning his poetry, prose, and graphic novels alike. However, Gospodinov's work is predominantly examined through the lens of postmodern "faceted" narrative, dense intertextual references, and the motif of nostalgia.

This paper aims to shed light on the environmental dimensions of his writing and analyse the specific strategies he employs across his creative output, with a particular focus on the novels The Physics of Sorrow (2012) and Death and the Gardnerer (2024). The Physics of Sorrow tells the story of a man suffering from a fictional "obsessive somatic-empathic syndrome," or "pathological empathy." This empathy manifests as the narrator's ability to inhabit the minds of others and travel through their memories. Critically, this capacity is not limited to humans; it is deeply intertwined with the ability to enter the realm of animals and plants, whose narratives are treated with the same gravity as those of human characters. Human life itself is perceived as a complex, multifaceted identity—an existence of "I ams"—encompassing the fates of ancestors, unborn children, and non-human entities alike. The second novel, Death and the Gardnerer, represents an attempt to come to terms with the passing of the author's father. Here, mourning and the preservation of memory are intimately bound to the father's garden, raising profound questions about the profound interconnectedness of human lives

and the natural world. By weaving together empathy, non-human perspectives, and the inseparability of human narratives from those of nature, Gospodinov establishes himself as a vital literary voice of the Anthropocene.

Claude Glass and the Aesthetic Experience of Natural Places

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The Claude glass can rightly be considered one of the significant tools that influenced the perception of the landscape and nature in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was a concave, dark-tinted mirror that nature and art lovers used on their excursions because it enhanced natural scenes to such an extent that they resembled the landscapes depicted in the paintings of Claude Lorrain. Claude glass thus contributed to the notion that nature is aesthetically interesting only when viewed from the perspective of its artistic representations. This notion subsequently found its way into influential guidebooks on significant natural sites, such as Thomas West's A Guide to the Lakes. West's guide is the first guidebook to the Lake District and has strongly shaped perceptions of its tourist attractions. What is interesting about is that it recommends routes based on their aesthetic impact and often justifies this impact by the sequence of scenic views that a given route offers. To fully appreciate these scenic views, Thomas West recommended the use of the Claude glass. The aim of this paper is to describe the circumstances that led to the popularity of the Claude glass and, in particular, to present the role that the Claude glass played in the aesthetic appreciation of nature, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. Using this specific example, it will be demonstrated how different forms of representing nature influenced its own appreciation.

The Potential of the Eco-Cultural Concept in Education

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The eco-cultural concept offers a promising framework for connecting education, cultural heritage, local identity, sustainability, and innovation. This contribution explores its potential as a catalyst for new educational approaches and cross-disciplinary collaboration within the KreativEU Alliance. Drawing on our experience from the Heritage Game, MultiHeritage, and EcoREGIS initiatives, we present different ways in which eco-cultural heritage can be transformed into meaningful educational activities and opportunities for students, teachers, and local communities. Particular attention is paid to the potential of place-based learning, gamification, digital tools, and international collaboration in connecting cultural and natural heritage with contemporary educational challenges. Rather than presenting eco-cultural heritage solely as a subject of study, we argue for its role as a shared educational platform capable of fostering creativity, interdisciplinary cooperation, and new learning opportunities across the KreativEU Alliance.

Carp Pond Farming in the Waldviertel – The Path to FAO GIAHS Recognition and Beyond

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Carp pond farming has shaped the landscape and cultural identity of the Waldviertel region in Lower Austria for more than 900 years. Although its production volume is small compared with major carp-producing regions in Europe, its importance extends far beyond the amount of fish produced. In 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) designated Carp Pond Farming of the Waldviertel Region in Lower Austria as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). The recognition was the result of a multi-year bottom-up process initiated by the pond farming sector itself. Through the Lower Austrian Association of Pond Farmers, farmers deliberately sought an international framework that would recognise not only carp as a regional food product, but the entire living agricultural system behind it – including traditional knowledge, biodiversity, ecosystem services, cultural practices and the characteristic pond landscape.

The presentation outlines the path towards GIAHS recognition and explores what the designation can mean for a small agricultural sector and its wider region. GIAHS has already become a gateway to greater visibility, new partnerships, educational activities and international exchange. At the same time, it offers opportunities to strengthen regional value creation, tourism, consumer awareness and appreciation of farmers not only as food producers, but also as active managers of a valuable cultural landscape. Looking ahead, the challenge is to turn international recognition into lasting regional benefits. Following the GIAHS principle of "dynamic conservation", the aim is not to preserve the Waldviertel pond landscape as a museum, but to keep it economically viable, actively farmed and capable of adapting to future challenges.

Legal Framework of Heritage Preservation in the Czech Republic and Presentation of the National Heritage Institute

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The basic principles of heritage care have been developed in the Czech Republic since the 19th century. The first act on heritage care was passed in 1958; ever since, our Czech monuments have been legally protected. Since 1987, the second act on heritage care has been in force. Act No. 20/1987 Coll., on state heritage care, is a basic legal standard laying down conditions for preservation and appropriate use of cultural monuments, including care of protected areas - reservations, zones and their buffer zones. It also regulates the rights and obligations of owners, administrators, users of cultural monuments and real estates in protected areas, administrative bodies and the professional organisations of state heritage care - the National Heritage Institute. In addition to the administration and presentation of more than 100 castles, castle complexes, chateaux, monasteries and other monuments, which include the most important cultural heritage sites in the Czech Republic, the National Heritage Institute is a professional and research organisation of state heritage care. In this area, it carries out the tasks of expert methodology, documentation and information, provides research and processes professional statements as an obligatory basis for binding opinions of executive bodies of state heritage care.

Managerial Warm-Up as a Tool for Supporting Health, Mental Well-being, and a Sustainable Work Style

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This paper presents an interactive educational activity entitled "Managerial Warm-Up", designed to promote health, mental well-being, and work performance through brief physical activity breaks during the working day. The concept is based on the principles of the Yoga in Daily Life system and reflects current knowledge about the importance of regular physical activity and recovery for the long-term sustainability of both professional and personal life. Participants will have the opportunity to practise a series of simple exercises aimed at relieving tension in the neck, shoulders, and back, promoting proper posture, practising conscious breathing, and applying brief calming techniques. The activity is designed to be easily implemented in a typical workplace without the need for special equipment or sportswear. The paper will also initiate a discussion about the potential use of brief movement and relaxation activities as a component of non-formal adult education and as a means of promoting well-being at universities, in schools, and in other professional organisations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of daily habits that help prevent stress, support mental health, and develop the competencies needed for a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

Cormac McCarthy's Literary Seascapes

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This paper focuses on seascapes in the fiction of American author Cormac McCarthy (1933–2023). While McCarthy is predominantly associated with the regions of American South and Southwest and most of his works take place in the inland United States, his later fiction, especially the penultimate novel The Passenger (2022), increasingly engages with seascapes and sea imagery. Moreover, in the 1980s McCarthy worked on an unpublished screenplay "Whales and Men" that extensively discusses sea environments and includes scientific findings concerning deep-sea life that echo in his later published works. McCarthy's texts thus feature seascapes that build on traditional meditative and sublime sea representations but significantly alter them, presenting a combination of scientific and poetic view of the sea. Drawing on recent works of blue ecocriticism, such as Stacy Alaimo's The Abyss Stares Back: Encounters with Deep-Sea Life and Blue Ecocriticism and the Oceanic Imperative by Sidney I. Dobrin, this paper seeks to demonstrate that McCarthy's representation of seascapes reflects a rupture between seascape as an artistic form gliding on the surface and seascape in a more environmental sense, capturing the sea as a complex and vulnerable ecosystem affected by human actions.

Building Internationalisation: From Strategic Networking to Interdisciplinary Learning

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Internationalisation in higher education is increasingly moving beyond individual mobility towards the creation of sustainable academic networks that integrate education, research, interdisciplinary collaboration and institutional partnerships. Recent activities at the University of South Bohemia (USB) illustrate how different internationalisation instruments can complement each other and translate strategic networking into concrete opportunities for students, academics and partner institutions. USB's participation in the 36th Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition in Glasgow provided a platform for strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new contacts with universities and higher-education institutions worldwide. Discussions focused on student and staff mobility, research cooperation, joint academic initiatives and the development of long-term strategic partnerships. Complementing this institutional networking, the Blended Intensive Programme Molecules in Cultural Heritage (MoCuHer), organised by the Faculty of Science, demonstrated how internationalisation can be implemented directly through interdisciplinary education. Bringing together students, researchers and experts from several countries, the programme combined online and physical mobility, expert lectures, practical demonstrations, research infrastructure, international teamwork and project-based learning at the interface of natural sciences and cultural heritage. Together, these activities illustrate a multidimensional approach to internationalisation, with mobility serving as a gateway to deeper academic engagement. Strategic networking, interdisciplinary education, shared research interests and personal interaction foster new collaborations and strengthen institutional partnerships.

A Landscape Full of Churches: The Gothic Trail as an Example of a Cross-Border Cultural Tourism Project

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Medieval buildings and their artistic furnishings in the rural landscape of the border region between southern Bohemia and Upper Austria are often considered outstanding examples of European Gothic art. In terms of Late Gothic architecture, on the Czech side these include the churches in Kájov, Dolní Dvořiště, and Zátoň, and on the Austrian side, those in Königswiesen and Freistadt. The church in Kefermarkt houses a uniquely well-preserved late-Gothic winged altar, a fine example of masterful woodcarving; the artists who created it also left their mark on the Czech side. On the Czech side in particular, a number of buildings are closed for security and staffing reasons, and access for the general public is very limited. The project Gothic Trail (Mühlviertel/AT–South Bohemia/CZ) focuses on making Gothic cultural heritage and Gothic art accessible to and promoting them among the general public. The project builds on the existing Gothic Trail concept developed in Upper Austria 25 years ago and aims both to revitalize this trail and to extend it into South Bohemia. The main objective of the project is to make Gothic cultural heritage accessible across borders with an emphasis on digitization and modern technologies. The project is innovative in that it combines expertise in art history, contemporary digital technologies and technology-based marketing tools into a single tourism product aimed primarily at promoting religious sites in the rural landscape as tourist destinations. The project will contribute to the preservation and promotion of Gothic cultural heritage and to the development of tourism in the Czech-Austrian border region struggling with high unemployment.

The proposed presentation will introduce the outcomes of the project and, above all, provide insight into the process of achieving its objectives, which are to be met by the end of 2027.

Student Casual Work and the Cultural Economy of Opole

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The Maestros de la Economia student research circle at Opole University of Technology surveyed full-time students in the region about the work they take up alongside their studies. This paper presents the part of the survey concerned with casual employment. Most students in the sample worked during their degree, mainly in hospitality, food service and retail. These are also the sectors on which Opole's festivals, museums and heritage tourism depend. The paper describes what students look for in casual work, what they expect from employers and how they assess its effect on their studies. It then considers the position of the heritage sector as an employer of students. Cultural institutions and events in Opole rely on a flexible seasonal workforce, and students supply a large share of it, but they describe this work in financial rather than professional terms. We discuss what this means for the stability of a cultural economy staffed by people who do not intend to remain in it, and whether the sector could be presented to students as something other than a temporary source of income. The paper contributes to the conference theme of the economic aspects of heritage and regional development.

When the winter landscape speaks… (Poster)

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The poster presents a winter snowshoe expedition course as a form of place-based learning, in which the landscape becomes not merely the setting for learning, but its active content. The course's structure involves a gradual reduction in everyday necessities and comforts, which focuses the students' attention on their immediate relationship with the place, the natural conditions, the group and the fundamental questions of day-to-day life. This experience is followed by an exploration of natural and cultural heritage, the memory of the landscape and the identity of the place, linked to a reflection on personal experience. The poster also utilises interactive elements that allow visitors to briefly experience some of the course's principles and to reflect on their own relationship with place and education.

The Transformation of the Landscape Character of the Political District Milevsko and Its Depiction by Visual Artists in the 1950s

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The Political district Milevsko was historically one of the poorest regions in the Czech lands. Plans for its industrialization dated back to the interwar period, but they were not realized until 1949 with the construction of a new industrial plant. Subsequently, the Orlík dam project was launched on the edge of the district. These construction projects, which dramatically altered the existing landscape, were depicted by visual artists (most notably Karel Stehlík) during the 1950s and also reflected in the work of writers and journalists. It is precisely this artistic reflection that will be the subject of the conference presentation.

Capacity to care: Transdisciplinary Education for Ecocultural Heritage

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By acknowledging the inherent links between ecology and culture, ecocultural heritage provides a promising framework for fostering natural and cultural diversity whilst renewing the relevance of the historic environment in an era of rapid environmental and societal change. A key challenge is providing practitioners and decision makers with the skills and knowledge to understand complexity and recognise integrated values whilst also facilitating action. Effective cultural heritage management has always demanded interdisciplinary collaboration. Beyond the disciplines traditionally associated with the historic built environment, ecocultural approaches require collaboration across landscape, environmental, and traditional/Indigenous knowledge disciplines. Building capacity in ecocultural heritage practice and expertise needs to reflect this inherent diversity and provide a suitable transdisciplinary platform.

This keynote presents recent initiatives in educational practice that respond to this need for new skills, knowledge, and forms of engagement in ecocultural heritage management. These include Managing Loss in the Historic Environment: Ecocultural Approaches, a professional training course aimed at a cross-sector, mid-career audience, and the Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment (ACCE), a transdisciplinary living lab aimed at young professionals. Managing Loss builds upon the emerging concept of 'adaptive release', which frames the management of transformative change as a dynamic ecocultural process with potential co-benefits for natural and cultural heritage. ACCE utilises large heritage sites and cultural landscapes to foster common understanding and expose students to diverse real-world initiatives. Drawing on the broader experience of the Sites at the Intersection of Natural and Cultural Heritage (SXNCH) network from which these training programmes emerged, and related research projects, the keynote argues that new forms of transdisciplinary education are essential to embedding ecocultural approaches within future heritage practice.

Mneme and Lethe in Eco-Cultural Landscapes: The Vacarescu and Ghica Domains in Romania

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Located near Târgoviște, the medieval capital of Wallachia, the Văcărescu and Ghica domains represent two significant eco-cultural landscapes associated with prominent Romanian aristocratic families. As assemblages of natural environments, architectural remains, cultural practices, historical narratives, and collective memories, they illustrate the complex relationships through which landscapes generate meaning, continuity, and identity. Despite their comparable historical significance, the two estates have followed markedly different trajectories in the contemporary period. Drawing on cultural landscape theory and critical heritage studies, this paper introduces the concept of anti-memory, defined as the gradual production of forgetting through neglect, abandonment, and the weakening of a site's commemorative, social, and interpretive functions.

Using a comparative qualitative case-study approach that combines heritage analysis, archaeological evidence, documentary research, and landscape interpretation, the study explores how differing models of stewardship shape the capacity of historic landscapes to sustain memory and belonging. The Văcărescu domain, associated with one of Romania's most distinguished noble and literary lineages, preserves significant architectural and ecological features, including sixteenth-century vaulted cellars, a nineteenth-century mansion, a family chapel, and a historic park. Yet prolonged deterioration has diminished both its material integrity and its presence in public consciousness. By contrast, the Ghica domain has undergone in the last decade restoration and adaptive reuse through active stewardship, cultural programming, and public engagement, transforming the estate into a living site of cultural transmission and community participation. The comparison demonstrates that eco-cultural heritage is not merely the inheritance of monuments, landscapes, and traditions, but a dynamic system of relationships linking communities, memory, and environment. While the Văcărescu domain exemplifies the production of anti-memory, the Ghica domain illustrates the regeneration of cultural memory through active stewardship. The paper argues that eco-cultural identity emerges from the continuous interaction between people and the ecological and cultural landscapes they inhabit. By examining these contrasting trajectories, the study contributes to emerging European and global debates on eco-cultural heritage, demonstrating how governance and stewardship shape not only the preservation of heritage assets but also the capacity of historic landscapes to sustain belonging, cultural continuity, and meaning across generations.

Landscape Memory as a Planning Tool: Integrating Eco-Cultural Heritage into Land Consolidations and Landscape Planning

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Historical landscape structures, such as ancient path networks, traditional boundary hedges, and historical field patterns, represent a crucial yet frequently neglected component of our eco-cultural heritage. In contemporary spatial planning, these elements are often overlooked and replaced by large-scale monocultural fields. This practice leads to a severe loss of regional landscape identity, reduced biodiversity, and a significant decrease in natural water retention capacity. This paper demonstrates how landscape memory—reconstructed through a combination of stable cadastres, old military mappings, historical aerial photography or modern satellite and aerial data—can be systematically integrated into practical planning processes. Specifically, we focus on Complex Land Consolidations and Landscape Plans as the primary legislative and technical instruments for rural development. By identifying persistent landscape lines and restoring historical segments, planners can effectively design robust Territorial Systems of Ecological Stability (ÚSES), enhance rainwater infiltration, and mitigate severe soil erosion. Furthermore, resurrecting these historical elements strengthens local cultural identity and provides new opportunities for recreational and educational use. Using specific model areas, this interdisciplinary study proves that reviving landscape memory is not a sentimental return to the past. Instead, it serves as a highly functional, data-driven strategy for mitigating climate change impacts and building resilient, culturally rich rural landscapes for future generations.

Guardians of Landscape Memory: Ancient and Veteran Trees as Living Eco-Cultural Monuments

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Veteran and heritage trees represent a unique intersection of the natural and human worlds, serving as profound anchors within cultural landscapes. Beyond their undeniable ecological significance and biodiversity value, these living organisms act as resilient vessels of collective memory, local identity, and socio-cultural continuity. This paper explores the multidimensional role of heritage trees through the framework of eco-cultural heritage and their contribution to sustaining the memory of place (genius loci). Utilizing a qualitative and historical approach, this study analyses heritage trees through their diverse socio-cultural contexts—ranging from folk legends, mythologies, and historic boundary markers to family-associated traditions and community meeting sites. Through selected case studies, we demonstrate how ancient trees bridge generations, anchor spatial memory across centuries, and function as living monuments to key historical events and local narratives. Furthermore, the paper addresses the current vulnerabilities these natural-cultural landmarks face, particularly the risk of losing the intangible heritage attached to them as oral histories fade. In conclusion, we emphasize the urgent need for an integrated conservation framework. Such a holistic strategy must seamlessly interweave botanical and biological management with the active safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, oral traditions, and community engagement to preserve the memory of place for future generations.

Sustainable Cultural Heritage Tourism: A Perspective on Drivers and Barriers

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Sustainable cultural heritage tourism entails simultaneously safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage while supporting economic development, community wellbeing, and ecological integrity (Mzembe et al., 2023). Yet the drivers and barriers shaping sustainability integration in this sector remain fragmented and under-theorised. This paper is based on a systematic literature review of peer-reviewed studies in tourism, heritage, and sustainability journals. Following established review protocols, relevant studies were identified through structured keyword searches supplemented by citation tracking. Abstracts of these studies were then screened. A full-text evaluation against the inclusion/exclusion criteria was undertaken to produce a final sample of research articles. We conducted a thematic analysis. Our review shows that sustainable cultural heritage tourism is shaped by four interrelated drivers: governance and policy architecture, community agency, market and commodification pressures, and supranational institutional influence (Loulanski and Loulanski, 2011; Parra-Requena et al., 2023). These are, however, counterbalanced by barriers such as path-dependent lock-in mechanisms, weak policy integration across governance levels, tokenistic community participation, and the symbolic adoption of sustainability commitments that serve as marketing tools rather than substantive mechanisms (Mzembe et al., 2023). Drivers and barriers are dialectically related, as the same issues that drive sustainable cultural heritage may also serve as constraints that limit the path towards sustainable cultural heritage tourism. This review offers a holistic lens for understanding conditions that can enable and inhibit sustainability in cultural heritage tourism. The findings will inform future research and policy.

Spatial distribution of toponyms with the adjective "Czech": cultural heritage, historical processes and regional identity

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This paper examines the spatial distribution of toponyms containing the adjectival modifier “Czech” (český/á/é) within the territory of Czechia and the factors that have shaped their spatial pattern. The results are based on a spatial analysis of the current occurrence of these toponyms and are presented through cartographic outputs. The analysis reveals clear spatial regularities, with a key role played by the border effect (state, provincial, and historical ethnic boundaries) together with associated cultural historical processes. The interpretation focuses on historical impulses and processes that contributed to the establishment of the adjectival modifier “Czech” in toponyms. In this respect, three main periods of development can be identified: the late 18th century, the mid-19th century, and the period following the end of the First World War. The paper demonstrates a close relationship between toponymic development, historical events, and regional identity in space. It further highlights the role of place names as carriers of cultural memory and as an important component of cultural heritage embedded in the landscape.

The Moving Waterline: Submerged and Re-emerging Heritage

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Periods of exceptionally low water increasingly bring archaeological sites and historical remains back into view along rivers, lakes and reservoirs, while rising sea levels and changing coastal conditions place other sites under water. These opposite processes are usually discussed in separate fields of research, even though they raise closely related questions about how cultural heritage is identified, protected and understood when the boundary between land and water is not stable. This paper examines heritage situated within this changing boundary. It considers the relationship between submerged cultural landscapes and sites that become temporarily exposed, with particular attention to the distinctions between underwater cultural heritage, maritime cultural heritage and more recent uses of terms such as emergent, re-emergent and amphibious heritage. The discussion also addresses a legal difficulty created by modern inundation: an archaeological site may be thousands of years old but may have remained underwater for only a few decades, as happens with sites flooded by twentieth-century reservoirs.

The paper places particular emphasis on what happens after a site becomes visible again. Physical exposure does not necessarily constitute archaeological discovery, and a site already known to specialists may acquire an entirely new public presence once photographs circulate, visitors arrive and local memories are renewed. Such moments can create opportunities for research, but they may also increase physical damage, uncontrolled access and pressure for intervention. Current scholarship still provides limited evidence from sites observed through repeated cycles of exposure and inundation, and cooperation between archaeological research and water management remains uneven. The paper therefore argues for closer attention to the changing waterline as a practical and interpretative problem in its own right, rather than treating terrestrial and underwater heritage as permanently separate domains. This contribution draws on work carried out within the SUBMERGE project (SUBMERged cultural heritage assessment through Marine Geophysics in ultra-shallow Environments), supported through the KreativEU Seed Funding Initiative.

Rewilding Futures: Heritage Foresight in Post-Socialist Landscapes

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Post-socialist landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe include numerous abandoned industrial, military and infrastructural sites. Many of these places are undergoing ecological succession while retaining material remains, social memories and, in some cases, environmental risks. Heritage scholarship has increasingly considered rewilding, curated decay and adaptive release as alternatives to conventional preservation, yet there is less guidance on how to choose among different management trajectories when future conditions are uncertain.

This paper examines how heritage foresight can inform transparent and ethically defensible choices among restoration, adaptive reuse, rewilding, curated decay and removal. It proposes a four-part approach to selective conservation based on cultural and ecological significance; feasibility, risk and governance capacity; robustness across plausible futures to 2035; and distributive and intergenerational justice. The approach is examined through desk-based analytical vignettes from Slovakia and Romania: a planned brownfield transformation, a military ruin within a protected landscape, an environmentally hazardous industrial site and a post-socialist infrastructure site undergoing rewilding. The analysis considers how different management options respond to climate pressures, demographic change, fiscal constraints, fragmented ownership, development pressure and shifting public values. Rewilding can be treated as a defensible form of selective conservation when it remains viable across several plausible futures and is accompanied by accountable stewardship, monitoring, clear safety thresholds, interpretation and periodic review. Developed as a contribution to the KreativEU project FORSEED – Futures Literacy and Heritage Foresight for Eco-Cultural Heritage Education, the approach will also inform the project's Heritage Futures Walks and eco-cultural heritage teaching vignettes.

Graduate Employment Plans and Regional Attachment in Opole

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This paper presents the part of a survey of full-time students, conducted by the Maestros de la Economia student research circle at Opole University of Technology, that dealt with plans after graduation. It sets out where students intend to work, what pay they expect in Opole compared with other regions, and what they say would persuade them to stay. The last of these was asked as an open question, so that no answer was suggested to respondents. The most common answer concerned proximity to home and family rather than professional prospects. The paper treats this as an economic finding rather than a sentimental one. If attachment to place is what keeps graduates in the region, then the regional identity of Opole Silesia and the history of settlement that shaped it have a value on the local labour market, and one that employers in the region do not appear to account for.

Explainable Computational Music Visualization for Teaching Western Tonal Harmony

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Western tonal harmony represents one of the fundamental components of Europe's intangible musical heritage and continues to shape music education, composition, and performance. Although its theoretical principles have been transmitted for centuries, many learners struggle to understand the reasoning behind harmonic decisions rather than simply memorizing chord sequences. Traditional notation often requires several abstract concepts to be understood simultaneously, while contemporary AI-based harmonization systems typically present only the final harmonic solution without revealing the decision-making process.

This paper introduces the concept of Explainable Computational Music Visualization (ECMV), a human-centered educational framework that employs computational visualization to make harmonic reasoning transparent and accessible. The proposed framework combines Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN) with the Chord Wheel Diagram to represent temporal progression, functional harmony, tonal proximity, and harmonic decision points within a unified visual environment. Rather than describing harmony as a fixed sequence of chord symbols, ECMV models harmonic development as an explainable decision process in which alternative harmonic pathways can be explored, compared, and interpreted. The approach is demonstrated using the traditional folk song Red River Valley, whose simple melodic structure provides an ideal educational example for gradually introducing increasingly sophisticated harmonic concepts. Starting from a basic diatonic harmonization, learners progressively explore dominant substitutions, relative minor transformations, secondary dominants, modal interchange, and alternative cadential structures while preserving the original melody. By separating melodic structure, temporal organization, harmonic function, and tonal relationships into complementary visual representations, the framework reduces cognitive complexity and supports a deeper understanding of harmonic thinking. The paper argues that ECMV should not be regarded as a music generation technique, but as a visualization methodology designed to describe, communicate, and understand human musical reasoning. More broadly, it demonstrates how computational visualization can support the preservation and teaching of Western tonal harmony as an element of intangible cultural heritage by making complex harmonic relationships transparent, interpretable, and accessible to beginning musicians.

History of the Federal institute of aquatic ecology and fisheries management, Agency of water management Austria (Poster)

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The present-day Institute of Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Management has a long history in Austrian fisheries research and aquatic resource management. Its origins date back to 1928, when the Fisheries Biological Station Weissenbach am Attersee was founded. In 1936 it was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In 1953, it moved to Mondsee, and the Kreuzstein fish farm was affiliated with the institute. Following the Federal Institute Act of 1983, it became the Federal Institute of Fisheries Management and was incorporated into the Federal Agency of Water Management in 1995. A second important component is the Waldviertel Ecological Station. Established in 1972 through the efforts of Friederike Wawrik, it developed into a regional research and advisory center focused on the pond landscapes of the Waldviertel. The Waldviertel Biological Station Association was established in 1978 to support its research activities. In 2003, the Ecological Station was integrated into the Federal Office of Water Management and became part of the present institution. Although Austria has a relatively small aquaculture sector, producing approximately 5,000 tonnes of food fish in 2024, aquaculture remains important for regional food production. Professional training and sustainable production are therefore key priorities.

Production mainly consists of salmonid farming, carp pond farming, and recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS). The Institute offers training in sustainable and animal-friendly aquaculture, combining classroom teaching, practical work, online learning and self-study. Vocational fisheries education follows Austria's dual training system, with programmes covering aquaculture, fish biology, freshwater ecology, fish health, lake management and hydrology. Advanced training concludes with a dissertation and comprehensive examination. The Institute also supports implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, manages the Fish Database Austria, monitors fish stocks and aquatic ecosystems, and develops sustainable aquaculture methods. The Waldviertel Ecological Station contributes regional expertise in pond fish farming, linking research with practical application and supporting an ecologically and economically sustainable Austrian aquaculture sector.

The European Capital of Culture as a Laboratory for Regional Development

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The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) is often perceived primarily as a year of cultural events. Its greatest potential, however, lies in its ability to serve as a real-world laboratory for long-term regional transformation. The presentation explores how the ECoC framework can bring together public authorities, cultural institutions, universities, businesses and local communities to experiment with new approaches to regional development. Using České Budějovice 2028 and the South Bohemian Region as a case study, it examines three interconnected dimensions: strengthening cultural and creative ecosystems, developing cross-sector partnerships, and testing innovative approaches to public space, community participation and sustainable development.

Field-Based Natural Science Course in Primary Teacher Education: From Species Identification to Self-Directed Learning and Outdoor Teaching Practice (Poster)

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The floristic and faunistic course has long been an important component of primary teacher education at the Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia. The course concludes the part of the curriculum focused on the didactics of science and environmental studies and is implemented in cooperation with the Dřípatka Environmental Education Centre in Prachatice. The centre provides an ideal setting for integrating natural science learning, teaching practice, and environmental education. This paper presents the course concept, its development, and experiences gained through its long-term implementation. The programme is structured around three interconnected components: practical identification of plants and animals in various habitats, preparation and delivery of outdoor learning activities by student teachers, and activities related to environmental education. Existing experience shows that direct contact with natural environments significantly enhances students' motivation, improves their ability to identify organisms, and helps them recognize gaps in their own scientific knowledge. The opportunity to apply acquired knowledge while working with groups of children in authentic outdoor settings has also proven highly beneficial.

The Importance of Reading Strategies for the Development of Sociocultural Identity in Integrated L1 Instruction

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Today's educational environment is responding to the needs of an increasingly globalized society by emphasizing the integration of educational content. We observe this trend not only in science education (e.g., the rise of so-called STEM subjects) or in the integration of academic subjects with foreign language instruction (CLIL), but also in the integration of the humanities and natural sciences with first language (L1, mother tongue) instruction. In this context, the environment—specifically, the region where instruction takes place—serves as a significant integrative factor. The space from which students and teachers operate, where they move daily and to which they have both practical and emotional ties, can provide a wide range of stimuli for teaching based on cognitive and communicative approaches. In this paper, we focus on the issue of developing reading strategies in L1 instruction by exploring how students and teachers can "read the region" in an authentic setting. The thematic focus of the reading materials relates to the development of students' sociocultural identity, their relationship to both natural and urban landscapes, and their practical navigation within the urban infrastructure. This presentation highlights selected findings from the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MŠMT) project "SGS-2025-05 Educational Research: Verification of the Effectiveness of Educational Trails Focused on Reading."

Internships as a Channel of Knowledge Transfer in the Opole Region (Poster)

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This paper presents the internship component of a survey of full-time students carried out by the Maestros de la Economia student research circle at Opole University of Technology. Fewer students complete an internship than take casual work, although the reasons they give for choosing an internship are developmental rather than financial. The paper sets out what students expect from a placement, what they want from host organisations and how much time they are able to commit. On this basis we argue that the shortfall has more to do with the number of placements available in the region than with the level of student interest. The second part of the paper looks at cultural and heritage institutions in Opole and the surrounding area as possible hosts. Museums, theatres, archives and the organisers of local festivals work in ways that correspond closely to what students describe wanting from a placement, yet they take on comparatively few interns. We treat internships here as a practical mechanism of knowledge transfer between universities and heritage institutions, and discuss what would be required for it to work. The paper relates to the conference theme of education, knowledge transfers and practice.

A Devastated Land: Early Perceptions of Environmental Devastation during the Thirty Years' War

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The Thirty Years' War is traditionally associated with enormous human losses, economic decline, and profound political transformations in Central Europe. It was also a period during which people gradually became more aware of the destructive impact of warfare on the environment. This contribution focuses on this issue and examines the extent to which, and in what contexts, early attempts to draw attention to the effects of military conflicts on the landscape, agriculture, and natural resources began to emerge in contemporary texts. The analysis is based on three distinct groups of sources. The first consists of the reports of an agent operating in Prague during the Bohemian Revolt. While sending detailed accounts of military and political events from Prague in 1619 and 1620, he also noted the despair of inhabitants living in devastated settlements as well as the spread of diseases. The second group includes contemporary printed newspapers, which regularly reported on military developments and increasingly carried accounts of burned villages, destroyed crops, the slaughter of livestock, and the transformation of inhabited landscapes into barren wastelands. The third source is Hans Jakob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen's novel Simplicius Simplicissimus, which depicts the later stages of the conflict and offers a literary reflection on the extensive devastation of a land affected by decades of warfare. The contribution argues that, in addition to the traditional focus on population decline and economic damage, contemporary observers increasingly highlighted the destruction of landscapes, the decline of agriculture, the cruel treatment of livestock and the spread of disease. Although it would be inappropriate to speak of environmental thought in the modern sense, these reflections suggest an emerging awareness that war represented not only an assault on human society but also on the wider natural environment upon which that society depended.

A Thousand Years of Fish Farming History in the Czech Republic – Current Problems and Challenges

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The earliest records of fishponds, and by extension fish farming, in the Czech lands date back to the late 10th century. From the 11th century onwards, fishpond construction gradually expanded, particularly in connection with the establishment of monasteries. The spread of Christianity and the practice of fasting during the winter months contributed significantly to the development of fish farming in Central Europe. The golden age of Czech pond aquaculture spanned the period from the mid-15th to the early 17th century. However, the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) marked the beginning of a period of decline. This trend was further exacerbated by broader societal changes, including rural-to-urban migration and the general development of society. A revival of fish farming began in the second half of the 19th century. Over time, fish (particularly carp) became an integral part of the traditional Czech Christmas Eve dinner. During the 20th century, fish production increased severalfold. Today, however, the Czech fish farming sector faces a number of significant challenges, including low domestic fish consumption, a high proportion of live fish exports, predation by fish-eating predators, and recurrent drought.

Old City, Young Residents: Educational Migration and the Renewal of a Historic Academic Town (The Case of Opole)

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Non-metropolitan academic centres are rarely studied as places that receive migrants. Most Polish research on internal migration looks at regions of out-migration, leaving the economic and demographic effects of student inflows largely undescribed. This paper addresses that gap through a case study of Opole — one of the oldest cities in Poland and a historic centre on the Oder, today a non-metropolitan university town with a high rate of studentification. The study asks how educational migration shapes the economic and population situation of the host city in three areas: the local market for goods and services, the labour market, and long-term development. It draws on a review of around 700 Polish and international works, a survey of 730 students (642 of them migrants) and a comparative analysis of public statistics, supported by an income-multiplier model that converts student spending into jobs. The effect is substantial and mostly positive. Student spending reaches roughly 150 million PLN a year, about a quarter of the city's budget, and generates some 355 jobs in the first multiplier phase. It adds around 1,350 new residents and strengthens the local stock of human capital. In this sense, educational migration works as a mechanism of economic and demographic resilience. For historic, non-metropolitan towns facing depopulation, these inflows are an underused resource for sustainable development.

Learning from the South Bohemian pond landscape: Using eco-cultural heritage for sustainable science education

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The South Bohemian pond landscape represents a unique interaction between human activities, water management, wetlands, and aquatic and terrestrial vegetation. Beyond its ecological and cultural value, this landscape provides an authentic learning environment in which students can directly explore processes essential for understanding current sustainability challenges. This contribution presents results from educational research investigating how inquiry-based outdoor learning can improve students' understanding of the ecological roles of plants and their awareness of the importance of vegetation in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Educational activities were developed around real South Bohemian ponds and wetlands and combined field investigation with a digital interactive textbook, animations, and modern measuring technologies. Students investigated primary production of aquatic plants and their relationships with oxygen concentration, pH, eutrophication, water quality, and ecosystem functioning. The learning activities thus moved photosynthesis beyond its traditional presentation as an isolated biochemical process and placed it within the ecological context of the local landscape. The approach was based on inquiry-based learning, enabling students to formulate hypotheses, conduct measurements in real ecosystems, interpret environmental data, and connect observed processes with broader sustainability issues.

Research conducted in South Bohemian secondary schools demonstrated significant improvements in students' understanding of photosynthesis, the ecological role of aquatic plants, and the relationship between photosynthetic biomass production and eutrophication. The findings also indicate that authentic field experiences, supported by digital technologies and inquiry-based approaches, can contribute to overcoming plant awareness disparity and make the ecological functions of vegetation more visible and meaningful to students. The South Bohemian pond and wetland landscape can therefore be understood not only as valuable eco-cultural heritage to be protected, but also as a living laboratory for sustainability education, connecting local landscape heritage with scientific understanding and future-oriented environmental responsibility.

Between You and Me: Fractured humanities in Kafka's "Jackals and Arabs"

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Franz Kafka's short story Jackals and Arabs (1917) stages an unsettling encounter in which a pack of jackals appeals to a visiting European traveller to help them slaughter the Arabs they live alongside, denouncing the latter as unclean, uncivilized, and unworthy of moral consideration. Read through a post humanist lens, the story does more than allegorize ethnic or colonial hatred: it exposes the rhetorical machinery by which one group manufactures another's expulsion from the category of "the human" altogether. This paper argues that Kafka's animal fable dramatizes extremism not as an aberration of human reason but as a structural effect of humanism itself, a system that has always required an excluded, animalized 'Other' against which the "properly human" can be defined. By voicing this exclusionary logic through jackals rather than humans, Kafka defamiliarizes violence so often naturalized in human speech, forcing readers to recognize dehumanizing rhetoric as a recurring technology of power rather than a metaphorical extremity. The story's triangulated structure, jackal, Arab, and the passive European witness, further implicates the detached observer, complicating any reading that locates extremism solely in the speaking subject. This paper contends that "Jackals and Arabs" anticipates a central post humanist insight: that the boundary between human and nonhuman is never a neutral biological fact but a contested, weaponizable fiction, one whose fracturing has historically underwritten some of humanity's most extreme violence against other humans.

Gallery in the Microscope (Exhibition)

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As part of scientific research projects, we often observe structures and behaviour of living organisms and often are unravelling their intriguing interior. Modern microscopic techniques allow us to observe and capture the micro-world ordinarily invisible with the naked eye. It is often a really fascinating spectacle and the results of such scientific work thus become a work of art. Despite that the author of such objects is nature itself, the art is, as in classical photography, to capture objects in all their natural beauty. The acquisition of such images is preceded by a relatively demanding process involving the fixation of microorganisms, or dissected miniature organs from organisms of larger dimensions, or their sectioning on a microtome. This is followed by contrasting the tissue either with the help of so-called fluorophores, which are molecules that, when illuminated, emit light of a certain wavelength, or with the help of classical histological staining. Finally, the tissue is scanned using sophisticated microscopes that capture either the light emitted by the tissue or the light that penetrates the tissue.

As a result, we obtain an image of a glowing object on a dark background or an image of an object in a light field, respectively. For larger tissues, we use the possibility to capture sharp images of individual layers of tissue, which can then be folded using software into a 3D image or a 3D model. The resulting images then combine curiosity and creativity, the basic pillars of the alliance of science and art. Science thus becomes art and art becomes science. With the help of these unique images, in which the discoveries of contemporary science are materialized in visual objects, we want to provide you with an insight into the heart of living organisms. Come with us to unravel the beautiful micro-world, which, although it surrounds us, remains hidden from the average observer and in which even ordinary things look extraordinary. „Art is born of the observation and investigation of nature“ (Marcus Tullius Cicero).

Paris across the Arts: the intermedial palimpsest and the construction of cultural imaginaries

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Paris has always held a unique place in the European cultural imagination, transcending its physical, geographical, and observable reality to become one of the most frequently depicted cities in Western culture. Thus, this paper aims at understanding how different artistic languages construct distinct imaginaries of the city of Paris, from the mid-19th century to the present day. In other words, it proposes to analyse, considering the concept of the intermedial palimpsest, how the city's identity has been continuously rewritten through literature, painting, film, and television series. To this end, an interdisciplinary comparative methodology will be adopted, in which literature, the arts, and environmental humanities provide a theoretical framework for analysing Paris as a cultural landscape and symbolic heritage. The discussion will also focus on how the different arts contribute to the construction of the imaginary of a heritage city in the works under analysis. The representation of a place through an intermedial palimpsest occurs when a real or imaginary geographical space is constructed through the superimposition of different artistic languages, where interpretive layers from the literary, visual, and cinematic past coexist and reveal one another. In this context, Paris should not be understood as a city with a single cultural identity, but rather as a dynamic urban landscape that different artistic media help to construct. The various works under analysis reveal multiple and often contrasting images of the same city: a cosmopolitan, romantic, glamorous, monumental, artistic, and nostalgic Paris, but also a socially fragmented, multifaceted, impoverished, and violent Paris.

Returning to Roermond: Witch Persecution, Storytelling and the Memory of Place

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This presentation explores contemporary engagements with the history of early modern witch persecutions in Roermond, a city associated with one of the largest witch trials in the Netherlands. During the trials of 1613–1614, at least sixty-four people, predominantly women, were accused, tortured, and executed. Although traces of this history remain embedded in the urban landscape through physical sites and place names such as Galgenberg and Rattentoren, the witch persecutions long remained largely absent from local heritage narratives and everyday historical awareness. Recently, this history has gained renewed visibility through guided city tours, exhibitions, narrative walks, and plans for a national witch monument. Together, these initiatives point to a process of rediscovery and re-interpretation of a violent and gendered past. Drawing on participant observation of different storytelling practices, the presentation explores how the history of witch persecution is being made visible and meaningful in the contemporary city. It considers which places, stories and voices become part of these narratives, how different storytellers connect the past to the present, and why this heritage appears to resonate now. Particular attention is given to connections between historical persecution and contemporary concerns about gendered violence and injustice. The case illustrates how heritage is continually reworked through storytelling practices, and how previously marginalised histories can become part of the contemporary memory and meaning of place.

Non-human and More-than-Human in Literature

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The paper will be based on the idea of a "more-than-human" world, a concept introduced by the American eco-philosopher David Abram in his book The Spell of the Sensuous (1996) and subsequently adopted and developed by other scholars. This concept seeks to offer a way of seeing the world that would overcome the human tendency to separate humans from the natural world. The paper will attempt to demonstrate what perspectives this concept opens up for the study of artistic—and primarily literary—representations, in comparison with traditional notions of the non-human, the superhuman, and the extra-human, which structurally divide the world into the human and the other. It will ask whether these terms reflect the specific poetics of fictional worlds and their depictions, or whether it is more appropriate to understand them as conceptual tools for their description and interpretation. Through iconic works of world literature, the presentation will thus attempt to answer the question of whether the "more-than-human" is merely a new concept that allows us to interpret differently what was previously interpreted through the prism of the "non-human" (or "extra-human" or "super-human"), or whether it is a concept tied to specific literary representations and poetics.

Microalgae-based valorization of agro-industrial effluent: a step towards circular bioeconomy

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Winery distilleries generate effluents with high organic and nutrient loads that remain poorly reduced even after anaerobic digestion and stabilisation. This work evaluates native microalgal communities established in a stabilisation pond at a Portuguese distillery (Destilaria Ferreira Gomes & Filhos) as a bioremediation route for effluent polishing ahead of discharge. Microscopy showed a mixed community dominated by unicellular, ovoid to ellipsoidal cells with green chloroplasts, together with co-occurring bacteria. Batch growth trials compared three inocula: a BG11-cultivated reference strain, a native effluent strain subcultured without pH control, and an effluent-adapted culture carried over after ten days and grown under pH control. Biomass was tracked by optical density and calibrated against a gravimetric method. Nutrient removal was assessed through standard wastewater parameters: COD, BOD5, total nitrogen, total phosphorus and ammonia nitrogen. pH control improved growth kinetics and shortened the lag phase relative to the uncontrolled trial. The effluent-adapted culture reached the highest final biomass concentration among the three conditions. Nitrogen and phosphorus removal was consistently stronger than the reduction in organic load. Native, effluent-adapted microalgae reduce the polluting potential of distillery wastewater and generate biomass with downstream valorisation potential. Molecular identification of the consortium and scale-up in photobioreactors are the next steps of this research.

Crime Fiction and Dystopic Landscapes

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The theme of the proposed paper is the peculiar nature of landscapes in the works of some of the most important authors of the so-called hard-boiled fiction set in southern California, especially in and around Los Angeles. If the pastoral mode in literature is often marked by a harmonious continuity between the natural and the artificial, the man-made, the novels of Raymond Chandler or Ross Macdonald can be seen as versions of the anti-pastoral in the sense that they build upon various tensions between man and the specific Californian environment. They make use of the peculiarities of the land- and cityscape of L.A. characterized sometimes by the expression „rurban", that is, neither „urban" nor „rural". The instability of natural environment enters into the plots of their novels in the form of earthquakes, wildfires, landslides or flash floods, their disastrous consequences being presented also as a just retribution for human arrogance and greed, which erects houses in very ill-suited places. The theme of the exploitation and devastation of nature becomes very prominent for instance in the novels of Ross Macdonald, which thus sometimes represent an interesting combination of hard-boiled crime fiction and eco-thriller.

Intragenerational knowledge, ecological literacy and forest habitus in local community mobilization against wildfires in Sweden 2018

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Focusing on the local level in three villages severely affected by the large and numerous wildfires in Sweden in 2018, this paper examines the importance of cultural heritage and local knowledge (social and ecological) in transgenerational knowledge creating a specific "forest habitus", important but not always acknowledged in forest fires, by the managerial parts. Drawing on a theoretical framework from community resilience and environmental justice, the empirical analysis reveals power relations that may hinder preparedness for future crises. Who gets the responsibility? Who gets paid? What does it mean to be working without money and how is this related to place and knowledge? For a more detailed discussion, see Vallström (2026) Resilient communities – mobilisation of rural skills, networks and resources in local responses to wildfires in Sweden 2018. Journal of Rural Studies 123, pp. 1-9.

Beyond the Trenches: Environmental Archaeology of First World War Battlefields in the Slovak Carpathians

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The contribution presents an environmental archaeological investigation of First World War military sites in the Slovak Carpathians. The research focuses on two areas associated with Austro-Hungarian infantry regiments recruited in the Czech lands: positions of Infantry Regiment No. 91 from České Budějovice in the Bukovské vrchy Mountains and positions at Kobyla associated with Infantry Regiment No. 81 from Jihlava. The research combines archaeobotanical and anthracological analyses with soil chemistry and spatial documentation of military structures. Plant macroremains reflect food consumption, plant use and the exploitation of local resources, while charcoal and preserved wood reflect the selection and use of woody vegetation for fuel and construction. The spatial distribution of phosphorus and other selected soil parameters reflects the intensity and character of human activities and may contribute to the identification of functionally differentiated areas within trenches, shelters and other military structures. These environmental proxies will be evaluated in relation to the spatial organisation of archaeological features and available historical sources. The integration of archaeobotanical, anthracological and soil data will enable the military positions to be investigated not only as battlefields but also as temporary settlement systems. Comparison of the two areas will focus on subsistence, resource procurement, spatial organisation and the environmental effects of intensive military occupation in the Carpathian landscape.

The Use of Scientific Micrographs in Science Education: Connecting Science, Learning, and Art in Cell Biology Education (Poster)

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Scientific micrographs provide unique insights into the organization of living organisms at the level of tissues, cells, and intracellular structures. Beyond their scientific importance, micrographs represent valuable educational tools with considerable potential for biology teaching. Microscopic visualization of cellular structures and technically demanding analyses of microscopic images contribute not only to an understanding of their architecture but also to the interpretation of their functions. Modern microscopes provide new insights into biological structures that have previously remained unexplored. Through carefully selected micrographs, students can develop more accurate visual perceptions of biological structures and processes that are otherwise difficult to imagine. A well-prepared micrograph is not only scientifically informative but also aesthetically compelling. Its visual qualities engage both the cognitive and emotional dimensions of learning. By combining sensory perception with verbal description and thinking about the nature of the observed phenomenon, students gradually acquire professional terms and knowledge.

Considering these didactic aspects, our new secondary school textbook "Cell Biology. Bacteria. Protozoa. Viruses", which is being prepared for publication by Scientia Publishing House this year, contents scientific micrographs acquired during research projects conducted at the Laboratory of Histology and Microscopy, Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences. In this paper, we demonstrate how selected examples of scientific micrographs can be used in cell biology teaching to support understanding of cellular architecture and organelle ultrastructure. The aesthetic aspect of scientific microphotography helps to cultivate students artistic taste and to lead them to perceive the beauty of the microworld and thus the beauty of all of nature. When we can look inside a cell through a microscope, we discover a beautiful and diverse landscape that inspires us to explore it further and uncover previously hidden secrets.

Connecting Science, Language and Landscape: A CLIL Approach to Eco-Cultural Heritage in Teacher Education (Poster)

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This poster presents a proposal for university seminars integrating science education and English through Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), with a particular focus on biology and geography in teacher education. It explores how environmental topics can provide a bridge between scientific understanding, eco-cultural heritage and education for sustainability. Drawing on the CLIL framework of Content, Communication, Cognition and Culture, the proposed seminars combine inquiry-based tasks, data interpretation and collaborative problem-solving with explicit language objectives and tailored scaffolding. A model unit on water in the landscape illustrates how learners can compare infiltration and surface runoff, evaluate water-retention measures and discuss how their suitability depends on local environmental conditions and land use. Landscape is thus approached as both an ecological system and a space shaped by human decisions. Pre-service teachers will design, trial through microteaching and reflect on CLIL activities for school learners. Planned pilot evaluation will assess subject understanding, English communication and pedagogical design separately. The proposal offers a practical framework for connecting interdisciplinary teacher education with an informed and responsible approach to landscape and eco-cultural heritage.

Early Modern Jesuit Landscape Projects and Their Role in Conversion

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This paper examines Jesuit landscape projects undertaken primarily during the seventeenth and the early eighteenth centuries, which, through the deliberate creation of sacred topographies, significantly transformed the cultural landscape and played an important role in the process of Catholic renewal and conversion. Rather than erecting isolated religious structures, the Jesuits conceived extensive spatial compositions in which architecture, landscape, and religious symbolism were integrated into complex instruments of conversion that fostered the formation of Catholic confessional identity. Particular attention is devoted to the construction of Calvaries as one of the most significant forms of Jesuit sacralisation of the landscape. The paper presents selected examples from present-day Slovakia, especially the Calvaries of Skalica and Banská Štiavnica, placing them within the broader context of Jesuit landscape interventions in Central Europe. Its principal focus, however, is on Jesuit projects in Trnava and their relationship to the historic University of Trnava, where systematic spatial and visual strategies can be identified in the shaping of the city's sacred topography and its surrounding landscape. The paper aims to interpret these projects not merely as architectural and urban interventions, but primarily as manifestations of broader Jesuit spiritual and conversion strategies rooted in Ignatian spirituality. By relating specific case studies to the theoretical concepts of Jesuit spiritual thought, the paper demonstrates how the landscape functioned as a medium of religious experience, collective memory, and confessional representation in the early modern period.

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