

intentional or preventable. Heritage is also under threat due to environmental factors such as natural disasters. The use of data, imagery and audio-visual material is increasingly important for the recording of sites and objects and is proving invaluable in (post)-conflict situations. While physical destruction cannot be prevented, at least data and images can be 'saved' and, in theory, everybody can participate in this process. This is not limited to heritage in conflict situations, but can also be applied to intangible heritage, indigenous peoples' heritage, coastal and maritime heritage, archives and historical documents, oral history and even in legal cases.

#### *Heritage and Identity*

This theme explores how society creates, consumes and revives history, while incorporating the role of identity and memory. Both collective and personal identities are firmly rooted in the past, and especially in challenging times this connection is emphasized to strengthen specific narratives. Heritage, both tangible and intangible, thus are potential forces of both inclusion and exclusion. How these processes work, the manner in which the past is used, and detailing the link between heritage and identity, are core themes of the cluster Heritage and identity.

#### **FOR WHOM?**

##### *Researchers and students*

The Centre for Global Heritage is a dynamic multidisciplinary community of academic and non-academic heritage experts that organizes conferences, seminars, workshops and lecture series. It also initiates research projects and participates in consortia that submit research proposals to Dutch and European funding organizations. Seed money is available for collaborating researchers from Leiden University, Delft University of Technology, and Erasmus University Rotterdam who submit interdisciplinary research proposals.

##### *Social Partners*

The Centre for Global Heritage and Development initiates heritage projects related to our three main themes: Heritage under Threat, Heritage & Identity and Heritage & Environment. In all of its activities the Centre cooperates closely with social partners and other academic institutes

##### *General Public*

Much effort has been put into disseminating our research amongst both scholarly and non-scholarly audiences through public lectures, open access books, journals, research guides, and open online education. Our Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) 'Heritage under Threat' (Leiden University) will be available for free from December 2016 onwards through [www.Coursera.org](http://www.Coursera.org).

##### *Close ties with Museums*

The Centre for Global Heritage and Development has close ties with a number of museums. Dr. Paul van de Laar is an Associate Professor at Erasmus School for History, Culture and Communication, and curator of the Historical Museum Rotterdam. He is very much interested in city history, anthropology, and issues of migration, especially in relation to port cities (Rotterdam, Liverpool, Hamburg and Marseille).



'Working with the Centre of Global Heritage gives me the opportunity to meet researchers from other disciplines, who share a same interest in topics as I do, for example in the revitalizing of crafts in current society. It also gives me the opportunity to invite scholars from abroad and expand my overseas network.'  
Dr. Maikel Kuijpers, Assistant Professor and research coordinator Heritage & Identity (Leiden University)



#### **CONTACT**

Do you want to contribute to multidisciplinary heritage research and be part of our research community? Are you looking for specific heritage expertise? Or are you interested in applying for the CGHD fund?

##### *Please contact us!*

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# Centre for Global Heritage and Development

CONTRIBUTES TO SOCIETY'S ABILITY TO INTERPRET, EXPERIENCE AND BUILD ON THE PAST.



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## WHO WE ARE

The Centre for Global Heritage and Development is a multidisciplinary collaboration among Leiden University, Delft University of Technology, and Erasmus University Rotterdam. It initiates, stimulates, and facilitates interdisciplinary and innovative research and education on heritage in its past, present and future social context. We use our interdisciplinary and interuniversity status to go beyond the traditional study of heritage by actively focusing on how heritage relates to cultural, social, and environmental developments and decisions.

## HERITAGE IN ITS SOCIAL CONTEXT

Social importance of heritage is becoming increasingly clear. Not only is heritage an issue in economic development, but also in war and disaster zones, tourism, urban and rural development, water management, and even in local, national and global (social political) relationships.

Conducting heritage research contributes to making well-informed decisions in policy and planning. Some of the issues involved can revolve around developing a (city) landscape while taking the historical value of a site into consideration, or concern safeguarding heritage in times of conflict, and also dealing with the practices and consequences of digitization of heritage.

Thus, the decision process on how to deal with heritage is a complex matter. Insight from various disciplines are needed to get a good grasp of both technical and social backgrounds, and to account for the needs, rights and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved.

Therefore, heritage studies in the 21st century call for a new interdisciplinary approach; a unique partnership between archaeology, social and political sciences, humanities, legal studies and technical and natural sciences. Creative disciplines such as architecture, design, civil engineering, as well as urban and landscape planning are also involved in this partnership.

All these distinctive disciplines are represented in our three universities and they collaborate in the Centre for Global Heritage Development.

## RESEARCH THEMES

The Centre for Global Heritage and Development focuses on three research themes: Heritage & Environment, Heritage under Threat, and Heritage & Identity.

### *Heritage and Environment*

Heritage is an integral part of our daily environment: historical buildings, urban structures, cultural landscapes, water systems, archaeological sites, and the so-called soil archive, which is often invisible on the surface. The investigation and management of these heritage assets require specific combinations of scientific knowledge and applied expertise, to which not only archaeologists, architectural historians and landscape historians add their share, but also architects, urban planners, landscape architects and civil engineering technicians. Together they can map the long-term history of these heritages, determine their value to society, and indicate new directions for integration or use them as sources of inspiration for further development and spatial planning of our cities and landscapes.

### *Heritage under Threat*

Heritage can be politicized and is prone to be claimed or destroyed by groups. However, not all destruction or threat is

*"Now, more than ever, heritage influences everyday life and it has become part of disciplines as urban planning, landscape ecology, and international law. There are always choices and decisions to be made regarding heritage, and these choices will in its turn influence future decisions, because often there is no way back. Do we restore cities after a war or do we rebuild them from scratch? Should we redirect the course of a meandering river? Multidisciplinary knowledge is needed to make well-founded decisions."*



Prof. dr. Jan Kolen, Scientific Director  
Professor of Landscape Archaeology and Cultural Heritage,  
Leiden University

Architecture in China distinguishes itself from architecture in the Netherlands through the *genius loci*, which is the cultural climate in which architecture develops. Present-day discussions of such issues as Smart Cities or the urban planning of the future would be unthinkable without doing a thorough analysis of the history of a particular place. Most of our cities have already been built and it is not possible to go back and start all over again. I attempt to link ideas and developments from the past with those from the present. History has not stopped ten years ago; it is a continuum!



Carola Hein, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology

## MOOC HERITAGE UNDER THREAT

Archaeologist Dr. Sada Mire (Leiden University) teaches the MOOC 'Heritage under Threat'. This is an open access online academic course for anyone who is concerned about threatened heritage. The MOOC teaches people to look at the destruction of heritage, for example in the Middle East, in a reflective manner and in a long term perspective, by posing such questions as 'Is it unique what is happening there?' and 'Why is heritage under threat and what can we do to protect it?'

