HERITAGE BORDERS OF ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

Mobilising cultural heritage for building partnerships and institutions for sustainable and inclusive peace

ENGAGE NETWORK
HERITAGE BORDERS OF ENGAGEMENT

HERITAGE AT THE MARGINS

Addressing challenges and opportunities of working with heritage
communities in the India hub

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/y5sjeonn

Friday, October 09, 2020 at 02:00 pm - 06:00 pm IST (BST - 4.5)
Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 11:30 am - 05:00 pm IST (BST - 4.5)

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY · PRAXIS · PARTNERS IN CHANGE Promoting Human Rights in Business · CHC CENTER FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION · CRDF CEPT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION · School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Heritage Borders of Engagement Network

Mobilising cultural heritage for building partnerships and institutions for sustainable and inclusive peace

ENGAGE REGIONAL HUB – SOUTH ASIA LAUNCH

HERITAGE AT THE MARGINS

Addressing challenges and opportunities of working with heritage communities
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Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices, Partners in Change, Centre for Heritage Conservation – CEPT Research and Development Foundation Ahmedabad, School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi, India

Friday October 9, 2020 (2:00 PM – 6:30 PM IST/ 9.30 AM – 2.00 PM BST)
Saturday October 10, 2020 (11:30 AM – 5:30 PM IST/ 7.00 AM – 1.00 PM BST)

Tunisia
North Africa

Iraq
Middle East

India
South Asia

NETWORK SPONSORS

ENGAGE NETWORK
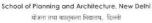HERITAGE BORDERS OF ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

The ENGAGE Network seeks to develop transformative equitable partnerships in the Middle East and South Asia, focused on shared 'humanitarian heritage'.Working with local border communities, whose cultural heritage and traditions have been affected by conflict across geographical and cultural borders, the Network aims to promote peace building, cultural exchange, and socio-economic development. Working collaboratively with research partners and communities across three Humanitarian Heritage Regional Hubs in Tunisia, Iraq and India, ENGAGE Network partners will foster alliances and partnerships between communities, heritage stakeholders and social groups across conflict-prone borders.

> *We define 'humanitarian heritage' in the ENGAGE network as a theoretical disposition to redefine human and cultural heritage as common endeavour of humanity that is indiscriminate about human race, culture, ethnicity or religion, but with common purpose, values, ethos that liberates cultural heritage assets, from being objectified and symbolic commodities of certain groups of people.*

Purpose and Scope of ENGAGE Network

The damage of cultural heritage (sites, traditions, art and craft) has increasingly become a consequence of acts of destruction and terrorism in ideological and armed conflicts, with such events being presented by the perpetrators as moral or ideological victories (Bevan 2006). The past three decades of conflict in the Middle East and South Asia have exposed the critical vulnerability of both tangible and intangible heritage in conflict zones, resulting in fragile economies, growing numbers of vulnerable individuals and displaced communities, limited access to basic living needs, developmental challenges and regional instability. The destruction of heritage sites is believed to be designed to obliterate a sense of belonging and collective memory held among local communities.

The international community's response to cultural heritage destruction, erasure or disappearance was predominantly reactive, post-event intervention, with limited long-term plans to prevent the causes of conflicts or to build resilience in communities to counter the vulnerability of heritage as targets. There was little attention to the long-term cost paid by women, young people and refugees with displaced communities representing a disproportionately large part of the population. In response to the forms of destruction in such culturally diverse areas, the development of effective and inventive strategies is important to re-envision heritage as a force for cultural engagement, exchange and heritage education, as a gateway to inclusive peace, is critically needed.

ENGAGE Network is working in partnership with HEIs, Research Centres and International Partners, including stakeholders; community representatives; civil society organisations; NGOs; heritage organisations; and participatory groups, across the UK and three partner countries as regional hubs; Tunisia, Iraq and India. It is multidisciplinary collaborative research alliances that will use aims to develop new methods, case studies, policy briefs, strategic plans, and practical toolkits useful for border communities, with emphasis on women, young people and refugees.

ENGAGE Network: Humanitarian Heritage Regional Hub

The ENGAGE Network seeks to develop a collaborative and engagement research platform with local and regional partners at its global research hubs designed to co-design the network's conceptual framework, activities and impact programme in response to the local needs of heritage communities at border regions. The three initial regional hubs in India, Tunisia and Iraq, will develop activities programme that will build the foundation and become the bedrock of the Network research agenda, theoretical and empirical investigation, whilst interrogating opportunities for impact-driven collaboration and regional partnerships cross cutting notional political borders. At the centre of this programme is equitable research collaboration on shared interest that address the challenges, needs and sustainable development of heritage communities at cross border regions.

During the 3-days workshops at the regional hubs, space will be provided for mutual discussion, co-production, engagement and learning between local research teams, community groups, project partners, national organisations and governmental officials. Each regional hub has a critical mission that engage:

- Developing scoping research investigation on the needs for humanitarian heritage as an inclusive programme of cultural exchange.

- Developing a collaborative research environment that facilitates shared and sustained engagement with local heritage communities, their representatives and CSOs within the regional research hubs.

- Enhancing and refining the research programme and framework proposed by the ENGAGE network through contribution of local and regional research partners in the three different regional contexts.

HERITAGE AT THE MARGINS
Addressing challenges and opportunities of working with heritage communities

CONCEPT NOTE

The concept of heritage takes shape at the juncture of the debate of what existed or believed to have existed in past and what we aspire in present. The interplay between past and present emerges as the discourse on heritage which raises the question of what aspects of past and present constitute heritage? In fact, it has to be approached in the light of ideas like culture and civilization. Though heritage, either natural or cultural, is inherited from the past with certain historical assumptions, heritage is no more considered as inexplicable or simply 'inherited'. For that matter, instead, as 'constructed', thereby subjected to multifaceted assessments, symbolism, cultural plurality, creolization, conflicts and constant meaning making.

Heritage is first inherited and then by extension owned, passed down across generations. Heritage is not an objective object, rather a socio-cultural construct that people constantly contextualize, redesign and recreate based on their values, understanding, usage and concurrent socio-political hierarchies. As the meaning of space is transmittable with time, its uniqueness or original meaning gets transformed with communities' engagement, intervention and rules of functioning. As Clifford Geertz (1973) viewed meanings as central to the concept of culture, cultures of space are reflections of dynamic social patterns and power plays; hence the notion of heritage embedded in space also gets fabricated.

For instance, the forms of elite or high culture-, historic monuments, buildings, traditions have always received patronage and have been accepted as heritage. While the facets of culture related to people lower in the social hierarchy either haven't survived or often struggled to survive. Further, Ideology-driven national discourse plays a major role in conservation of inherited and thereby 'constructed' heritage. And this often leaves behind the tales of those *'others'* living at the margin. In this regard, traditional knowledge, livelihoods, customs, cultural identities, worldviews held by the indigenous groups of Global South, in popular notion, have been delineated to belong as the 'subaltern' strata of societies with continued ignorance towards their cultural values and sentiments. People possessing socially non-elite or "low culture" had been forced to stay within demarcated territories largely at the margins of civilization. As marginality is not just geographic but cultural too (Shields, 1991), certain cultural heritages are placed on the periphery of world cultural orders. But the language of heritage expressed in an act has potential to give new meaning to places and thus re-claim them from the cultural margins of society. State and society make conscious attempts to reinforce their claim over 'space' and heritage.

Heritage Borders of Engagement Network [ENGAGE] (https://humanitarianheritage.com/) working in alliance with HEIs, research centres and international partners is an endeavour to formulate an evidence-based understanding of the role and potential of heritage sites, practices and communities in developing long-term sustainable and inclusive peace across conflict-prone border locations through creative modes of cultural productions, education, tourism, interdependent economy and social justice. It is a collaborative multidisciplinary research platform to develop new methods, case studies, policy briefs, strategic plans and practical toolkits for border communities. With the core intent of shared 'humanitarian heritage', coordinated by Nottingham Trent University and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK, ENGAGE network seeks to build transferrable models of regional partnerships in Middle East and North Africa and Southern Asian regions that promotes peace, transnational cultural exchange and equitable socio-economic development of communities. The Network has key institutional partners including Nottingham Trent University,

University of Leeds, University of Nottingham, University in Birmingham in the UK, with Praxis India, University of Wasit and University of Sousse coordinating the three regional hubs in India, Iraq and Tunisia. ENGAGE has 25 partners in 12 countries made up from academic institutions, communities, stakeholders, cultural institutions and policy makers.

India Hub representing the South Asian region of ENGAGE Heritage Borders Network collaborating with Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices, Partners in Change, Centre for Heritage Conservation – CEPT Research and Development Foundation Ahmedabad, School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi aims to concentrate on research and partnerships in the first phase. A workshop at the onset of India Hub engagement plans to bring in practitioners, academicians, civil societies, non-governmental agencies, government officials, policy makers, students, community representatives, youths and concerned creative collaborators on one platform, publicize the aim of the network and the research agenda. The workshop, a knowledge sharing forum will explore 21st century challenges and opportunities of heritage conservation focusing on modern conservation of heritage from the lens of 'selectivity, authenticity or integrity and sustainability'. The imperative of the workshop will be highlighting the notion of conserving shared humanitarian heritage of a transferrable and sustainable model with cross-border peaceful partnerships.

With the fundamental understanding of humanity that is indiscriminate about human race, culture, ethnicity or religion, the broader objective of the panels will be to identify, record, document, assess and analyze alternative forms, practices and interpretation of heritage-making by minorities. It will seek to dig deep into the dialogue where cultures of past conceptualizing heritage will be interpreted at the juxtaposition of varied pasts of diverse range of communities across state and national borders. To imagine the past in the present, heritage will be unveiled in relation to the 'other' or as part of the other at margins, instead of interjection. Rising cultural consciousness and a sense of assertion among marginalized groups will reflect the brighter side of renovation of identity and culture claiming respect and social esteem across native and international spheres. The panels in different contextual and spatial understanding besides emphasizing the role of youth collaborations in safeguarding the vernaculars and creating new age measures of preservation, will also engage with the state's profound role in preserving national heritage and its legal as well SDG frameworks. The key takeaways of the workshop will comprehend into advocacy for effective strategies of sustainable peace as well as scope for further research.

ENGAGE INDIA HUB REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The regional workshop programme designed to contribute to the network's research agenda steered by local intelligence, understanding of challenges and potential opportunities, has three critical objectives – (i) Developing scoping research investigation on the needs for humanitarian heritage as an inclusive programme of cultural exchange (ii) Developing a collaborative research environment that facilitate shared and sustained engagement with local heritage communities, their representatives and CSOs within the regional research hubs and (iii) Enhancing and refining the research programme and framework proposed by the ENGAGE network through contribution of local and regional research partners in the three different regional contexts. The workshop comprises of the inaugural session followed by four panels and concluding session on lessons for future.

Panel I: Conserving Humanitarian Heritage

The session highlights the role of community in the sustenance of the heritage and from the key-hole of humanitarian heritage. It raises the key question- "whose heritage is it anyway?" It focuses on sense of ownership, mobilization, direct benefits and scales of development within a community as the process of heritage conservation and preservation. The owners of the heritage are the actual passers and receivers of the heritage both in the past and the future, while others act as catalysts in speeding up the processes of conservation and preservation for the community. The session is critical in sharing the experiences of heritage conservation as a tool to engage communities across borders. The session invites speakers and listeners to suggest ideas which could become a new framework for future conservation processes with a fresh methodological approach. This session stands imperative as a transformative and sustainable model for equitable partnerships on shared 'humanitarian heritage' as a strategic framework for building resilience and countering conflict impact.

Panel II: Subaltern Heritage – Redefinitions and Appropriations

Heritage is that which is inherited. Any group, or community, can pass down its valued possessions - tangible or intangible - over generations. There will be multiplicity of heritage in the same space, time, or among cohabitants. Within this pluralism of heritage, some continue subliminally, until they become appropriated, packaged and marketed. Others, with the patronage of state, business, or dominant identities, go on to determine heritage. This pluralism is not one of happy co-existence, but one of contested spaces, politics and negotiations. This session explores the heritage on the margins - how they become appropriated and sanitized to conform to a larger Brahminical, patriarchal, heteronormative values; and how the relationship of heritage and subaltern communities is defined and determined within larger political narratives.

Panel III: Cultural Institutions at the Time of Crisis

Cultural Institutions, traditional and modern, play a very important role in bringing the communities together, especially in the time of crisis. During the time of earthquake, places of worship, congregation and education become a collective shelter; in famine these networks get activated and these places become nodes for managing information and material flow. For an individual, certain instituted cultural practices act as measures of social security. Cultural practices and intuitions also get challenged by introduction of alternative modern, dissenting or progressive organizations that create their own responses during the times of crisis. Weather contested or not these cultural institutes co-exist in cities and contribute significantly to resilience of certain practices. While they are physically held by places of value, they become responsible for defining and redefining meanings of places. This session aims at bringing together understanding of such cultural institutions and their role during a crisis and their contribution to urban resilience.

Panel IV: State's Approaches to Heritage Conservation – Locating the People in Policies

The state has a prominent role in the recognition, conservation and management of heritage. This begins with the articulation of what heritage is, and continues to determine *how* and *which* heritage should be conserved. For instance, India lists a wide range of tangible and intangible cultural heritage drawn from across the length and breadth of the country in an attempt to showcase its cultural pluralism. The political environment also plays a key role in determining the ideology and what aspects of Indian heritage need to be showcased, at the cost of which other. Therefore, any policy, laws and schemes the state frames to preserve the country's heritage have a direct impact on its people. Some of these policies may empower some sections, while at the same time disempower others. Any attempt at working on humanitarian heritage must explore this relationship between a state and its people. This session thus aims to understand better how countries define these relationships.

THE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Friday October 9, 2020 (2:00 – 6:30 PM IST/ 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM BST)

Inaugural Session (2:00 PM – 2:40 PM)	
Welcome, introduction to ENGAGE India hub, workshop, purpose of workshop	
2.00 - 2.10 PM	Mr. Tom Thomas, CEO Praxis and Co-I, India hub
Introduction to ENGAGE Network	
2.10 - 2.15 PM	Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, ENGAGE Network Principal Investigator
Honorary Opening Speeches	
2.15 - 2.20 PM	Prof. Dr. P.S.N. Rao, Director of School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi
2.20 - 2.25 PM	Dr. Jigna Desai, Executive Director, Centre for Heritage Conservation – CEPT Research and Development Foundation Ahmedabad
2.25 - 2.30 PM	Mr. Pradeep Narayanan, Director, Partners in Change
Few thoughts on ENGAGE Network India Hub	
2.30 - 2.40 PM	Prof. Nigel Wright, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Nottingham Trent University

Research Panels (2:40 PM – 6:30 PM)
Panel I: Conserving Humanitarian Heritage
Chair: Mr. Sandeep Virmani, Director, Hunnarshala Foundation Co-chair: Ms. Anjali Mittal, Assistant Professor, Dept of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture Delhi
Speaker 1: Dr May al-Ibrashy, Chair, Megawra-Built Environment Collective **Athar Lina Initiative in Historic Cairo: Participatory approaches integrating development and heritage preservation**
Speaker 2: Mr. Muzaffar Ansari (Kalle Miyan), Self-taught tourist guide **Self-taught preservers of Heritage: Community mobilizing strategies situated around community and sustenance in Chanderi**
Speaker 3: Ms. Yasmeen Lari, Architect, Co-Founder and CEO, Heritage Foundation of Pakistan **The Makli Model: Barefoot Social Architecture (BASA)**
Open floor: Question and Answer
Tea Break (4:10 PM – 4:20 PM)
Panel II: Subaltern Heritage: Redefinitions and Appropriations
Chair: Ms. Gouthami, Entrepreneur and Founder, Travel Another India Co-chair: Mr. Tom Thomas, CEO, Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices
Speaker 1: Dr. Swarnamalya Ganesh, Dance historian and Director, Ranga Mandira School of Performing Arts **SADIR - Muted voices - Difficulties in hearing the subaltern**
Speaker 2: Dr. Madan Meena, Artist and Folklore researcher **Will reclaiming heritage lead to an end to marginalization - While heritage is celebrated, communities may not?: Case of Heritage of DNTs from Rajasthan**
Speaker 3: Mr. Gunjal Ikir Munda, Assistant Professor, Central University Jharkhand **'Dance to survive': Cultural heritage and its practices of a tribal community**
Speaker 4: Ms. Rajyashri Goody, Visual artist & Ethnographer **Everyday resistance: Reclaiming Dalit heritage for oneself**
Open floor: Question and Answer

Saturday October 10, 2020 (11:30 AM – 5:30 PM IST/ 7.00 AM – 1:00 PM BST)

Research Panels (11:30 AM – 3:40 PM)
Panel III: Cultural Institutions at the Time of Crisis
Chair: Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya, Architect and professor Co-chair: Dr. Jigna Desai, Executive Director, Center for Heritage Conservation - CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), Ahmedabad
Speaker 1: Ms. Gurmeet S Rai, Architect, Director, CRCI **Cultural Practice of 'Gurmata'- Transcending boundaries of communal differences**
Speaker 2: Dr. Fabrizio Galeazzi, Research Fellow, StoryLab Research Institute, Anglia Ruskin University **Cultural institutions and artistic expression for the preservation of indigenous languages and heritage: The Kusunda example**
Speaker 3: Dr. Rohit Jigyasu, Conservation architect, Project Manager, ICCROM **Harnessing the role of cultural heritage for sustainable recovery following disasters and conflicts**
Open floor: Question and Answer
Lunch Break (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)
Panel IV: State's Approaches to Heritage Conservation: Locating the People in Policies
Chair: Dr. Swapna Liddle, author and historian, Convenor - INTACH Delhi Chapter Co-chair: Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Chair in Architecture and Director, Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage, Nottingham Trent University
Speaker 1: Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar, Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Conservation, School of Planning and Architecture Bhopal **Exploring possibilities of protecting humanitarian heritage through existing legal frameworks**
Speaker 2: Mr. Manish Chakrabarti, Practising conservation architect, Professor & Head, School of Architecture and Planning, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata **Enabling policies for adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and places**
Speaker 3: Dr. Manvi Seth, Professor and Head, Dept. of Museology, National Museum Institute **How India expects to fulfil SDGs related to conservation of heritage (through the lens of national museum)**
Open floor: Question and Answer
Tea Break (3:40 PM – 4:00 PM)

Concluding Session (4:00 PM – 5:30 PM)	
4.00 - 4.20 PM	Case studies developed by Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices, Partners in Change, Centre for Heritage Conservation – CEPT Research and Development Foundation Ahmedabad and School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi
4.20 - 4.40 PM	Presentations of key lessons from each research panel
4.40 - 5.10 PM	Open Forum on Suggestions for Engagement
5.10 - 5.20 PM	Vote of thanks

Guidance for Speakers and Participants:

- The Event is conducted via Virtual Platform Zoom, run by Nottingham Trent University in Partnership with Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices, Partners in Change, Centre for Heritage Conservation – CEPT Research and Development Foundation Ahmedabad and School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi in India. Each Session/Panel has a pre-arranged Virtual Conference Room that is open to the Public.

- Participants in each session needs to Click on a link that will be provided and it will take you directly to Admission Lobby of that conference room, where our team will admit you. Only Speakers will be allowed to talk, and the rest will be on mute with Camera Off.

- The Chair will manage the Session, talks and remind speakers of their time with 5min & 2minutes reminders. We are keen for open and respectable debate. Whilst we welcome public participation and audience, no derogatory or out of context comments will be allowed to maintain the focus of the session.

- The Collective Lunch and Tea Break will be an optional open Virtual Hall for participants to have a break, join an informal chat or a follow up on conversations with speakers. You can join the next sessions by clicking on the same link.

- All Sessions will be video recorded for research purposes and some clips/elements of sessions may be displayed on the ENGAGE Network Website at a later date. If you do not wish your talk/interventions to be displayed on the ENGAGE Network Platforms, you need to tell us in advance.

- The International Seminar and Workshop Programme will be available online on the Website and our Social Media Outlets, to allow for others and public audience to join. No Live Broadcast will be available, however.

- If you have any enquiries or wish to get in touch with The ENGAGE-South Asia Team, Please visit the Network website: www.humanitarianheritage.com; or e-mail the India-Hub team on: engageindia@praxisindia.org

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In Collaboration with

The Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage
Network Lead & Coordinator
School of Architecture, Design & The Built Environment

www.humanitarianheritage.com

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