



Nottingham Trent University



# Capturing Memories Rebuilding Identities

The Everyday Culture and Heritage of Post-War Iraq



**10 – 11 May 2022**

*Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham*

**12 May 2022**

*Lakeside Museum, University of Nottingham, Nottingham*

*Part of the Project:*

*Preserving the Disappearing Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul*



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## Acknowledgements

This event and its activities are a part of the collaborative research project 'Preserving the Disappearing Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul'. This event has been supported by the generous fund of the British Academy in the UK along with the support of Nottingham Trent University's Global Heritage Research Theme.

The research project has been supported by the generous fund of the British Academy in the UK. Some of the project activities have been sponsored by the generous fund the Global Challenge Research Fund in the UK. The project has been led by the Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage (CAUGH) at Nottingham Trent University and undertaken in collaboration with the University of Leeds in the UK, and the University of Mosul and the University of Wasit in Iraq. Some of the project activities have been undertaken in collaboration with ICCROM. The project has been supported by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage – Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

## Collaborating Partners



## Sponsors



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For further information or registration, do contact us on e-mail: [CAUGH@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:CAUGH@ntu.ac.uk); Tel: +44 115 84 84193; or by post on: The Centre for Architecture, Urbanism & Global Heritage, Arkwright Building, A001 & A002, City Campus, Nottingham Trent University. 50 Shakespeare Street. Nottingham, Postcode: NG1 4FQ, United Kingdom.

# **Capturing Memories – Rebuilding Identities: The Everyday Culture and Heritage of Post-War Iraq**

**10 - 12 May 2022**

Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom

## **Context**

The northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the historic home of the Assyrian capital, Nineveh, and in continuous habitation ever since the seventh century AD, was Iraq's most culturally diverse and inclusive city for centuries. In the aftermath of ISIS warfare and extensive destruction between 2014 and 2017, the old city lost not only many of its historic sites, institutions, and fabric, but, more critically, many communities and minority groups were displaced. Once a centre of culture and trade, much of that rich culture, heritage, traditions, and crafts are endangered and at risk of irreversible disappearance.

The Research project Preserving the Disparaging Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul has been undertaken with the aim of contributing to the documentation and preservation of Mosul's disappearing cultural heritage. It seeks to implement a strategic approach to revive local traditions and reactivate the cultural heritage of the old city through memorialisation, preservation and dissemination of shared heritage as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic mobilisation of the heritage economy. For around two years, through community engagement and co-creation workshops with local communities, the project team has been working on researching and documenting places of memories as well as recording and analysing the memories of heritage practices, festivities and crafts that used to define the pre-conflict society of Mosul.

Evolving outcomes of the project demonstrate that the people of Mosul, once again, embark on a journey of rebuilding, recovery and reclaiming their memory. Not ready to abandon their cultural diversity or tolerance, they wake up every morning more determined to preserve local traditions, architecture, history, and culture. This event is designed, curated, and dedicated to analysing, recording, sharing and learning about this monumental and collective resistance, resilience and relentless effort to preserve and rebuild Mosul's most celebrated values, identity and spirit.

## Event Plan

This event is a gathering of carefully selected speakers with specialist research interests, experience and scholarship on Mosul and Iraq's cultural heritage. It focuses on presenting and discussing heritage management, recovery efforts and challenges in the country to conclude with useful lessons and innovative plans for preserving the country's heritage. Also, the event includes celebrating and disseminating the outcomes of the two-year-long UK-Iraq collaborative work on exploring and recording the cultural heritage of Mosul.

This is a 3-day event. The first day will be of two sections. The first section will focus on tracing the history of Iraq and Mosul and their rich tangible and intangible heritage. The second section will include delivering talks demonstrating the present standing of cultural heritage in Iraq and Mosul, and the challenges that face the preservation of the country's traditions and historic assets due to decades of conflicts and instability.

The second day will be of two sections as well. The first section will include delivering talks by pioneering researchers working on research studies and excavation missions in Iraq and the Middle East with aim of presenting ongoing efforts to preserve the history of this region and concluding lessons for future efforts. The second section will focus on presenting the research project *Preserving the Disappearing Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul*. It will include presenting the undertaken research work by the project team and its novel outcomes. This session will conclude with presenting and discussing the project's outputs and exploring future collaboration opportunities. This day will conclude with a private opening and reception of the exhibition: *The Afterlife of War: Capturing Everyday Culture and Heritage of Old Mosul*.

The third day of the event will involve the formal opening of the Mosul exhibition. This is a month-long exhibition that will be on display as a companion to the British Museum's Ancient Iraq Exhibition at The Lakeside Museum at the University of Nottingham. This event will conclude with a talk delivered by Professor Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, NTU-CAUGH lead and the project PI, entitled *Hearing the silence of Old Mosul: uncovering disappearing spaces and sounds of culture and tradition of a historic Iraqi city*.

## Capturing Memories – Rebuilding Identities: The Everyday Culture and Heritage of Post-War Iraq

Day 1 Tuesday 10 May 2022		
09:00 – 10:00 Registration and Coffee		
Opening Session		
10:00 – 11:00	Welcome & introduction to the event	Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University.
	Welcome speech of Iraq	Mr. Atheer Al-Saedy, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq.
	Welcome speech of NTU	Prof. Cillian Ryan, Pro-VC (international), Nottingham Trent University.
	Welcome speech of Mosul University	Prof. Kossay K. Alahmady, Chancellor, University of Mosul.
	Welcome speech of Wasit University	Dr. Mazin H. Al-Hasany, Chancellor, University of Wasit.
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:15	Keynote 1: Disappearing cultural heritage of Mosul – Perspectives on Architectural Memory and Survival	Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University
12:15 – 12:30 Coffee break		
<b>Panel 01: Iraq and Mosul Cultural Heritage</b>		
12:30 – 14:00	Chair: Professor Mike Robinson, Nottingham Trent University	
	Digital heritage as an integrated sustainable tool to record Mosul's cultural heritage	Prof. Gehan Selim – University of Leeds
	New light on Early Islamic material culture from Iraq and the Silk Road	Prof. Julian Henderson – University of Nottingham
	Towards building capacity for holistic, sustainable and resilient recovery of Urban heritage of Mosul	Dr Rohit Jigyasu – Project Manager, ICCROM.
	Preserving cultural routes of Old Mosul in post-war reconstruction	Prof. Ghada Musa R. Al Slik – University of Baghdad
14:00 – 15:00 Lunch & Exhibition of Mosul Heritage		
15:00 – 15:45	Keynote 2: Heritage and antiquities in Iraq: challenges, ongoing projects and future plans.	Dr. Laith Majid Hussein - Director General, Iraqi State Board of Heritage and Antiquities.
15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break		
<b>Panel 02: Challenges to Cultural Heritage Protection and preservation</b>		
16:00 – 17:30	Chair: Professor Gehan Selim, University of Leeds	
	Protecting cultural heritage during armed conflict: the work of the Blue Shield	Prof. Peter Stone – Newcastle University
	Conflict as heritage: remembering and forgetting war	Dr. Mary Shepperson – University of Liverpool
	Rubble and research: post-disaster protection, processing and reconstruction	Prof. Robin Coningham – UNESCO Chair, Durham University
	A multi-dimensional approach to archaeology and cultural heritage in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Prof. Claudia Glatz – University of Glasgow
19:00 – 22:00 Evening Reception		

**Day 2**  
**Wednesday 11 May 2022**

10:15 – 11:00	Keynote 3: The British Museum "Iraq Scheme" training programme.	Dr John MacGinnis - Lead Archaeologist, British Museum Iraq Scheme
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break		
<b>Panel 03: Preserving the Heritage of Iraq and Mosul: Opportunities and Learnt Lessons</b>		
11:30 – 13:00	Chair: Professor Sabeeh Farhan, University of Wasit	
	Urban context and cultural heritage context in Iraqi cities after wars	Prof. Abdulhussein A. Al-Askari, University of Baghdad
	Iraqi public opinion on heritage reconstruction	Prof. Benjamin Isakhan, Deakin University.
	Community participation in heritage preservation & recovery	Dr. Omar Al-Hafith, Nottingham Trent University.
	The residential architectural heritage of old Mosul	Dr. Ahmed Abdulwahid – University of Mosul
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch		
<b>Panel 04: Preserving the Disappearing Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul</b>		
14:00 – 15:00	Chair: Dr. Rawaa Qasha, University of Mosul	
	Preserving heritage as a prelude to restoring the spirit of the old city of Mosul post-war	Prof. Sabeeh Lafta – University of Wasit
	Innovative digital documentation of Mosul heritage	Dr. Oday Al-Chalabi – University of Mosul
	The Community-Led Reconstruction of Mosul's Old Markets: A Reconciliation Process	Mr. Yousif Al-Daffaie, Nottingham Trent University.
	Research collaboration opportunities at the University of Mosul	Dr. Rawaa Qasha, University of Mosul
15:00– 15:15 Coffee break		
<b>Concluding Session: Consultation and Future Collaborative Research</b>		
15:15 – 16:30	Roundtable Panel on the Heritage Preservation Policy for Historic Mosul	Discussion led by Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University.
	Concluding session	Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University.
17:00– 19:00 <b>Private opening and reception of exhibition: The Afterlife of War: Capturing Everyday Culture and Heritage of Old Mosul</b> Lakeside Arts Gallery, University of Nottingham		

Day 3

Thursday 12 May 2022

Formal opening of The Afterlife of War: Capturing Everyday Culture and Heritage of Old Mosul  
Lakeside Arts Gallery, Nottingham University

12:00 – 13:00

Hearing the silence of Old Mosul: Uncovering disappearing spaces and sounds of culture and tradition of a historic Iraqi city

Prof. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University

**NTU** Nottingham Trent University

Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage

## Exhibition on Post-War Mosul's heritage

### The Afterlife of War:

### Capturing Everyday Culture and Heritage of Old Mosul



**Date** 11 May – 12 June 2022

**Venue** Djanogly Gallery 1A, Lakeside Museum, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

**NTU** Nottingham Trent University



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