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NEWS

Critical heritage studies as global challenge

News: Apr 29, 2016



Professor Kristian Kristiansen, director of the new center. Photo: Anders Simonsen.

On the 21st of April, the newly established Centre for Critical Heritage Studies (CCHS) was launched ceremoniously at the University of Gothenburg. An important goal for the center is to study how cultural heritage are perceived and used in different arenas today. The research aims to provide critical alternatives for the future.

– I am very optimistic and grateful that the University of Gothenburg has chosen to invest in critical heritage research. The center will work as a global platform for diverse approaches to the study of heritage, says Michael Rowlands, professor emeritus in anthropology and archaeology at University College London (UCL), and one of the leaders of the new center, who held the key note speech at the launch.

Centre for Critical Heritage Studies is part of the University of Gothenburg's cross-disciplinary research initiative UGOT Global



Challenges where six new centers received funding to establish multidisciplinary research centers focusing on global societal challenges, starting in April 2016. This center is formed as collaboration between University of Gothenburg and University College London.

Centre for Critical Heritage Studies is organized in four research clusters that gather different forms of global societal challenges connected to heritage in the past, the present and the future.

– The last 10-15 years, different groups in society have put a renewed focus on heritage, and with it new forms of cultural heritage emerged paralleled with old forms resurfacing. The latter applies archives and digital humanities, while the urban space and health are new forms of cultural heritage, as well as recycling and vintage, says Kristian Kristiansen, professor in archaeology and director of the center.

A theme that will be developed within the center focus on studying heritage by applying new forms of scientific methods as for example DNA sequencing and network analysis. Yet another part of the centers organization is the Heritage Academy that is a network between the university, heritage institutions, politics and business.

– My mission is to create a platform where different culture and memory institutions, the University of Gothenburg and the Västra Götaland region can meet. It will support the development of knowledge in universities and cultural institutions, and contribute to the interaction between theory and practice. The main activity consists of seminars, conferences and training, says Anita Synnestvedt.



What role will this center play?

– I hope it will mean that research on heritage and its various processes will be developed and deepened, which is needed in our globalized world. We face many challenges where discussions and research on heritage can be of great importance. The center can thus also participate with a critical perspective in a contemporary debate and in the community on issues related to heritage, says Anita Synnestvedt.

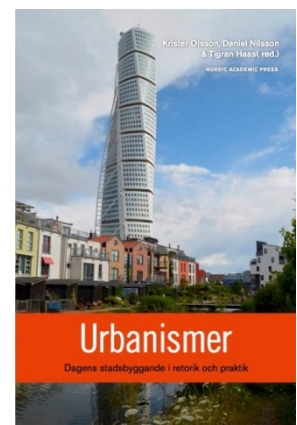
By: Jenny Högström Berntson and Thomas Melin

Urbanismer: New publication from Curating the City cluster

Urbanismer. Dagens stadsbyggande i retorik och praktik

Nordic Academic Press, Ed. Krister Olsson, Daniel Nilsson, Tigran Haas

In this book established Swedish and international researchers, planners and architects discuss characteristics - or what should characterize - today's urban construction. What is desirable urban environments and how should decision-making in urban development be organized? What does sustainable design of cities of the future mean? By highlighting the driving forces and factors affecting urban development, the authors want to point out how and why the city develop in a certain direction. They also provide an overview of trends and their impact on the Swedish urban



development. Read more about the book (in Swedish) [here](#).

LECTURES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIUMS, CONFERENCES

Seminar in Swedish: Medborgarforskning i teori och praktik

Time: 5/3/2016 at 1:00 PM

Location: Faculty of Arts, Renströmsgatan 6 - H323

Event type: Research profile seminar

This seminar gathers researchers interested in citizen science. The seminar will be in Swedish.

Lecturer: Niclas Hagen, Dick Kasperowski, Christopher Kullenberg, Wilhelm Kardemark och Jessica Moberg, Katarina Plank



EXTERNAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Call for Papers: The 8th Modern Conflict Archaeology Conference

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol is pleased to announce that our 8th annual Modern Conflict Archaeology Conference will be held on Saturday 15th of October 2016. This one day conference is aimed toward postgraduates and early career researchers exploring areas pertaining to 20th and 21st century conflict. The conference will be a forum for critical and theoretical discussion and provide an opportunity for both research presentation and to meet with people working or studying in similar fields. We also welcome members of the public to attend the conference. Please send a 250 word abstract and a short speaker bio to team@mcaconf.com by Monday **18th July 2016**, however any expressions of interest to either present or attend would be appreciated before this date. Read more [here](#).

Call for Papers: EuroMed 2016 – International Conference on Digital Heritage

Cyprus Oct 31st - Nov 5th.

The International Conference on Cultural Heritage (CH) brings together researchers, policy makers, professionals and practitioners to explore some of the more pressing issues concerning cultural heritage today. In particular, the main goal of the conference is to focus on interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research on tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage, the use of cutting edge technologies for the protection, restoration, preservation,

massive digitalization, documentation and presentation of the CH content. At the same time, the event is intended to cover topics of research ready for exploitation, demonstrating the acceptability of new sustainable approaches and new technologies by the user community, SME's, owners, managers and conservators of cultural patrimony. Those researchers who wish to participate in this event are invited to submit papers by **13 June 2016**. Read more [here](#).

Call for Papers – BANEA, Archaeologies in and of Conflict, British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology, Glasgow 4-6 January 2017

One of the most pressing challenges for Near Eastern Studies today is how we engage with the Middle East's many human, military and political crises. Yet the wars in Syria and Iraq are but the tip on an iceberg in which archaeology and cultural heritage find themselves in the midst of conflict. This includes political, social or economic friction and hostilities in the context of rescue projects, contested pasts, or the less spectacular destruction of archaeological sites through agricultural or industrial intensification. Discord, conflict and their aftermath, however, shape not only current affairs and the lives of millions in the Middle East today, but were both frequent and deeply transformative in ancient societies. Taking tragic inspiration from the human dimensions of such conflict, one of the challenges is thus, how we can shift attention from geopolitical questions to the people affected by and suffering from them, both today and in the past.

Conference sessions will cover:

- Encounters with Materials and Technologies
- Close Encounters
- Routines, Memory and Performance
- Landscapes of Transition
- Archaeologies in and of Conflict
- Big Data, Large Scales, Long-term - New Approaches
- Ongoing Fieldwork
- Posters

Deadlines: Session and workshop proposals: 1 August 2016

Paper and poster abstracts: 31 October 2016

Titles and abstracts (max. 200 words) should be sent to Claudia.Glatz@glasgow.ac.uk.

Session/workshop proposals must include a list of agreed speakers, titles and abstracts. Read more about the conference [here](#).

Call for papers: EX NOVO Issue n. 2 Who Owns the Past? Archaeological Heritage between Idealization and Destruction

Deadline for submissions: November 2016.

We recommend sending an abstract with 5 keywords by May 2016. This will allow us to organize at best and speed up the peer reviewing process.

Send your paper to: submission@archaeologiaexnovo.org

For enquiries please contact: maja.gori@archaeologiaexnovo.org

For author's guidelines, see [Appendix 2](#)

Joint Post-doctoral Fellowship in Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Economic Development Birmingham- Illinois BRIDGE Fellowship

The University of Birmingham (UoB) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) have a strategic partnership and are jointly recruiting for an exciting new initiative, the Birmingham-Illinois BRIDGE Fellowship programme, to recruit top postdoctoral researchers in six identified areas that span the interests of UoB and Illinois researchers. One of these areas is broadly conceived of as Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Economic Development. Applications must be received by midnight on Friday 13th May 2016. Further details are attached and can be found at <http://www.birminghamillinoisbridge.org/fellows/>

PhD student position in conservation of built heritage

Type of employment: Fixed-term employment, 4 years, 100 %

Job assignments: The general aim of the PhD position is that the doctoral student should develop such knowledge and skills that are required to independently conduct research in cultural heritage, and to contribute to the knowledge development in the subject area through a scientific dissertation. The Ph.D. position is connected to a the research project *How was the Church of Sweden transformed into a national cultural heritage?* and to a cross-disciplinary research group doing research on religious buildings as heritage, dealing with conservationist issues, processes of cultural signification and heritage.

(<http://conservation.gu.se/english/research/rhit/>) The Ph.D. candidate will develop the research topic in cooperation with the research group. The project shall address value processes and consequences following on-going transformations of church buildings in Sweden. The work will include investigations of common perceptions and ideas about the use of church buildings. Closing date for application: 2016-05-09. Read more and apply [here](#).

Doctoral studentship: Iranian felt textile practices and cultural heritage

The Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews is offering an AHRC funded doctoral studentship for the Burkett and Beyond project. The application process is in two stages: In the first instance, you will have to [apply to the University of St Andrews](#) as soon as possible. You should be offered a place to be able to proceed to the next stage. You should then send a letter of application, outlining your qualifications for the research, with an example of your work and a short proposal for conducting the research in Iran (before end of May 2016). The start date for the studentship is October 2016. You will have the necessary English language qualifications.

Informal enquiries can be sent to Dr Stephanie Bunn. Read more [here](#).

Doctoral research fellowship in archaeology/object conservation (material studies)

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in archaeology/object conservation is available at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History (IAKH), University of Oslo. The PhD project will be positioned between archaeology and conservation with mentors from both fields. The position is reserved for a multi/interdisciplinary research project on material studies that has to combine archaeology, archaeometry and object conservation. The project should focus on inorganic material from archaeological contexts. It should be relevant for non-organic artefacts, their technology and deterioration.

Deadline for application: 1 August 2016. Read more [here](#).

Doctoral Research Fellowship in Archaeology

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in archaeology is available at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo. It is required that the themes of the proposed projects are relevant for ongoing research at the Department within Nordic Prehistory (Neolithic to Early Iron Age) or Mediterranean archaeology (Iron Age to Roman Republic). Central research topics in the Department include the societal transformations, economy, settlement archaeology, social organization, technology, burial practices and identity. The project description must be theoretically and methodologically sophisticated. It is an advantage if the proposed project is interdisciplinary in scope and approach (e.g. towards science, ecology, geography, technology or anthropology). Deadline for application: 1 August 2016. Read more [here](#).

PhD course: Theorising Digital Archaeology: Critically Engaging with the Digital Turn in Archaeology

Dialogues with the Past. The Nordic Graduate School in Archaeology at the Norwegian Institute at Athens, August 29-September 3, 2016.

Important dates

Application for participation: June 1, 2016

Submission of working papers (10 pages, Times New Roman 12, Spacing 1,5): August 1, 2016

Appointment of discussants: August 8, 2016

Read more [here](#).

CONTACT

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