

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

CRT/DIST - Archaeology of the Intangible. Understanding Cultural Natural Heritage through Movement and Touch - ARCHINT

Funded By	Dipartimento DIST FONDAZIONE CRT CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI TORINO [Piva/CF:06655250014]
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Context of the research activity	The project studies diverse aspects of cultural natural heritage, including local knowledge and ways of life through archaeology, architecture, material culture and ethno-archaeology in Northeast Africa. Emphasis is placed on the importance of movement and touch in understanding cultural natural heritage: movement through the landscape, movement of makers during processes of creation, the grasp of material culture, literally and figuratively.
Objectives	ARCHINT enhances our understanding of the past by taking movement and touch as an entry into intangible aspects of the human experience. The tangible remains of human activities, such as landscape, architecture, urban structuring, settlement patterns and objects, are found through archaeological survey (of landscape, standing architectural remains, and other traces on the surface); geophysical exploration and excavation (for subsurface remains). Yet scholars are ultimately interested in those aspects of the past that are intangible: ways of live, identity, relations, social organization, cultural memory, beliefs, traditions and innovations. ARCHINT uses the term “cultural natural heritage” to acknowledge that nature and knowledge about nature is an integral part of heritage. Discerning cultural from natural, and tangible from intangible does not improve our analytical potential, but on the contrary splits off what is fundamentally interwoven: nature and culture are entwined as heritage and comprise both tangible and intangible aspects. This heritage is not only represented by landscapes, architecture and objects, but also by memories, ecological knowledge and meaning. These are the important intangible aspects of our past and present. The project studies diverse aspects of cultural natural heritage, including local knowledge and ways of life through archaeology, architecture, material culture and ethno-archaeology in Northeast Africa. Emphasis is placed on the importance of movement and touch in understanding cultural natural heritage: movement through the landscape, movement of makers during

processes of creation, and the grasp of material culture-literally and figuratively.

The project is designed in close collaboration with and integration of Indigenous viewpoints to understand and record tangible and intangible heritage. The systematic recording and reproduction of local knowledge includes the study of the occurrence of natural raw materials in the landscape, as well as their management and collection; the use of these materials in building techniques and the making of a variety of object classes. The materials approach underlies the study of vernacular architecture and production techniques. The reproduction and adaptation of well-understood traditional knowledge contributes to addressing global environmental challenges. Digital Humanities methods and theories are at the basis of the entire project, including the digital reproduction of landscapes through threedimensional GIS and DEMs, and the recording of movement of makers as part of gaining and transferring knowledge (haptic recording and reproduction).

**Skills and
competencies
for the
development of
the activity**

For the 3-year PhD position in the Doctoral Program of Architectural Heritage we are seeking a student with a Master's degree in archaeology or architectural history, with proven interest in the cultural natural heritage of Northeast Africa. Proposals for PhD research should include an outline of research interest of maximum 8000 characters (Statement of Purpose), and a CV which includes an indication of the level of knowledge of the language spoken in the proposed research area.