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**IGU CONFERENCE HERITAGE GEOGRAPHIES:
POLITICS, USES AND GOVERNANCE OF THE PAST**

27-28 May 2021, Lecce, Italy



On 27 and 28 May 2021, University of Salento (Italy) organized the International Geographical Union thematic conference entitled *Heritage Geographies. Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past*.

The main topic of the conference dedicated to "geographies of the Heritage" was to highlight the importance of the heritage and its inclusion in a correct way in current settlements development policies. Therefore, heritage is analysed from a multifaceted and temporal perspective: past – places of memory and meanings, present – conservation measures and actions in times when globalization changes places identities and future – sustainable policies in which heritage occupies a central place.

In the conference opening took the floor Professor Fabio Pollice, Rector of the University of Salento, conference chair, Professor Mariano Longo, Head of the Department of History, Society and Human Studies, University of Salento, Professor Raffaele Casciaro, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, Associate Prof. Elena dell'Agnesse, University of Milan-Bicocca, conference chair, vice-president of International Geographical Union and Professor Michael Meadows – University of Cape Town, president of International Geographical Union.

The parallel sessions referred to topics such as: Traditional agricultural landscapes, between Heritagization, Commodification and Tourism Sustainability; Smart governance, Urban Planning and Heritage;

Place names as cultural heritage: general perspectives, regional focus and specific categories of place names as cultural heritage; The Maritime Cultural Heritage: discourse, practices and uses; Heritage and Islandness: the Islanders' Narratives; Heritage Geographies of Tourism: prospects and challenges; Heritage and nationalism; Sharing the heritage: heritage narratives in the age of social media; Southern Thinking. Heritage, Migration and Mediterranean cultures; Local Government and the Governance of Urban Heritage; Citizen Participation in the Governance of Urban Heritage; Landscape as heritage: critical perspectives; The geography of Culture-led Development; Language (as) Heritage (in) Place: Political geographies of linguistic heritage geographies. A Round Table was organized on the subject of women in social sciences for equity in research. In the end of the round table took place discussions about Perspectives on heritage geographies with the presence of four International Geographical Union commissions: Geography of Governance (Professor Carlos Nunes Silva – chair and Professor Anna Trono – full member); Political Geography (Dr. Virginie Mamadouh – co-chair); Cultural Approach in Geography (Professor Emeritus Je-Hun Ryu – chair); History of Geography (Professor Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg– chair); Toponymy (Professor Cosimo Palagiano – chair and Professor Peter Jordan – co-chair).

The Conference was held in online format due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The scientific event gathered an important number of researches from all continents.

University of Bucharest was represented by two scientific papers: *Local narratives, semiotics and urban restructuring processes in small industrial towns from Romania* (authors: Associate Prof. Andreea-Loreta Cercleux, Assistant Prof. Florentina-Cristina Merciu and Lecturer Elena Bogan) and *Impacts of urban development factors on cultural heritage in post-socialist period. Bucharest as case study* (authors: Assistant Prof. Florentina-Cristina Merciu, Associate Prof. Andreea-Loreta Cercleux, Dr. George Merciu).

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