

Call for Abstracts

An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Heritage Reparations: Responding to Climate-Induced Damages

**Workshop
Leiden, 16 May 2025**

The impacts of climate change on cultural heritage have assumed growing prominence in recent years, after having long been neglected within climate change discourse. The emerging debate on climate change and cultural heritage is primarily focused on ascertaining that climate change-induced damage is likely to take place (or, in certain circumstances, has already taken place); or, alternatively, how cultural heritage can be used as a tool in support of adaptation and mitigation strategies. However, thus far there has been little consideration of what the aftermath of climate change-induced damages to cultural heritage will look like in practice.

This call invites contributions which seek to explore the matter of providing reparations for climate change-induced damages to cultural heritage through a multi- and interdisciplinary lens. For example, who should provide reparations for climate change-induced damages to cultural heritage? Conversely, who can formulate demands for claiming such reparations? What position do individuals and local communities occupy in the reparations discourse with respect to cultural heritage, for example in the context of communities subject to forced or planned climate displacement? More broadly, what does it mean to think in the reparative mode vis-à-vis cultural heritage impacted by climate change, and for whom is such repair undertaken?

Examining the impacts of climate change upon cultural heritage through the lens of reparations also raises the question of what types of damage can be compensated. Is it even possible or desirable to assign a monetary value to the non-economic losses which arise when heritage is damaged or lost as a result of climate change? What role can international institutions play in distributing reparations within the international community, for example through mechanisms such as the newly created Loss and Damage Fund of the Paris Agreement? Similarly, what role can private actors, such as insurance companies, play in helping heritage actors to anticipate and respond to climate change-induced damages?

The issue of climate change-induced damages to cultural heritage takes on particular importance when viewed from the global scale, given that the effects of climate change – and correspondingly also its impact upon cultural heritage – are felt differently across the globe, and often run along geographical, temporal, and socioeconomic fault lines. Similarly, the problems sketched above cannot be approached from the perspective of a single discipline.

For this reason, the organisers invite contributions from researchers or practitioners in all career stages and from all disciplines, including (but not limited to) archaeology, anthropology, architecture, critical heritage studies, geography, history and law. Submissions may focus on a specific heritage site or practice, a particular geographical region, or adopt a global approach; the organisers particularly welcome submissions which explore the theme of the conference from the perspective of the overseas territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, such as Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

Format

The workshop will take place at Leiden University on 16 May 2024. It is open to scholars and practitioners of all disciplines working at the intersection of climate change and cultural heritage research. The organisers expressly welcome submissions from early career scholars and practitioners.

The workshop is designed as an in-person event and participants are expected to cover the costs of travel and accommodation. However, the organisers recognise that visa or budgetary constraints may limit the ability of some participants to attend. To support greater inclusivity, remote participation may be considered on a case-by-case basis for those unable to travel to Leiden.

Abstract submission

Abstracts (in English) must be submitted to the organisers at: g.akturk.hauser@arch.leidenuniv.nl and s.h.starrenburg@law.leidenuniv.nl by 12 March 2025. Submissions must include:

- The name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s);
- A 300-word abstract in Word format;
- The CV of the author(s);
- The contact details of the author(s), including email address.

By submitting an abstract, the author(s) commit to holding a 15-minute oral presentation at the workshop. Selected speakers will be notified by 26 March 2025.

Organisers

The workshop is organised by [Gül Aktürk Hauser](#) (Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology) and [Sophie Starrenburg](#) (Leiden University, Faculty of Law).

The workshop is organised with the financial support of the Leiden University Fund, the Gro-tius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden Law School, and the Department of Archaeological Heritage and Society of the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University.