

Digital Heritage Futures (CIE Webinar, Nov. 17, 2025)

The [CIE - Centre for International Heritage Activities](#) is an independent organization that supports professionals, researchers, and communities working in the field of cultural heritage. Based in the Netherlands, and active around the globe, CIE initiates, develops and coordinates international projects, workshops, and exchanges that promote community-driven, inclusive, sustainable, and approaches to heritage preservation and storytelling.

The *Digital Heritage Futures Webinar* is part of CIE's ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and collaboration around emerging technologies in heritage documentation and interpretation. The event connects international partners from academia, museums, and creative practice to discuss how digital tools can support more inclusive and participatory approaches to heritage and heritage preservation. The session will be moderated by Alia Yunis at the Media-Production Studio of the College of Architecture Art and Design ([CAAD](#)) at the AUS American University of Sharjah located in the United Arab Emirates, with a second moderator to be announced for the satellite event at FH Münster, Technology-Campus Steinfurt, Building E, room E-015, Germany.

Virtual Traces: Reconstructing Heritage Through Technology

This webinar brings together international experts and practitioners exploring how digital technologies are reshaping our understanding, preservation, and communication of cultural heritage. Hosted within the network of the CIE - Centre for International Heritage Activities, the event connects perspectives from academia, museums, and creative practice.



The session aims to create an open dialogue about how digital tools can serve as creative instruments for

cultural continuity, connecting communities and histories across borders and media.

location	timezone	17. Nov 2025
Amsterdam, Berlin, Münster	CET (UTC+1)	16:00 – 19:00
Abu Dhabi	GST (UTC+4)	19:00 – 22:00
Pittsburgh	EST (UTC–5)	10:00 – 13:00



Format: Online Webinar streamed live in [Zoom](#)

Program

Session	Name	Content	Duration
Welcome	Dr. Robert Parthesius	Introduction and opening remarks by the founder of CIE	5 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>Information on EduHub</i>	5 min
Prof. Zlatan Filipovic, Student Collaborators: Ahmed Geaissa, Maryam Moustafa, Nada Aldash, Arpana Murugappan, Amanda Vargheses (Wadi Al Helo), Yamna Badr (The House of Wisdom), Hend AlShamsi, Jenine AlHamaydeh (On this land)	Presentation of student projects from the American University of Sharjah	Case-presentations of immersive and interactive cultural heritage projects developed by students and research at the American University of Sharjah, CAAD	15 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
Ralph Vituccio	Carnegie Mellon University, USA	Presentation of works in digital media and storytelling	15 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
Angela Heinemann	Sandstone Museum, Havixbeck, Germany	Presentation on digital and participatory exhibition formats	15 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
SpotAR	Victor Waal	Presentation of recent AR projects in heritage and cultural storytelling	15 min

Session	Name	Content	Duration
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
Historic Sites	Prof. Pablo Dornhege	Presentation on documenting historic sites using digital tools	15 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
Heritage Lab Launch	Prof. Felix Beck	Launch of the new Heritage Lab website and presentation of current research	10 min
	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	<i>questions</i>	5 min
Wrap-up	Prof. Dr. Alia Yunis (moderation at location Sharjah, UAE), Dr. Biljana Volcevska (moderation at location Steinfurt, GER)	Summary and closing remarks	5 min
			2hrs 05min

Participants/Speakers

In alphabetical order:

Felix Beck (FH Münster University of Applied Sciences, Creative Technologies Lab) is a designer and researcher whose work combines creative technologies, design methodologies, and cultural heritage studies. At FH Münster's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, he leads the Creative Technologies Lab, focusing on interdisciplinary design-based innovation. Beck will introduce the new Digital Heritage online platform and present recent projects that connect digital fabrication, storytelling, and regional heritage in collaborative research and teaching.

Pablo Dornhege is Professor of Transmedia Design and Immersive Technologies at [HTW Berlin](#) (Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin, University of Applied Sciences), where he leads the Future Realities Lab and co-founded the Immersive Technologies Hub. His work investigates hybrid real-virtual spaces, visualization, and digital media for knowledge transfer, including applications relevant to cultural heritage.

Zlatan Filipovic (American University of Sharjah, UAE) is an artist, designer, and educator working across media, film, and emerging technologies. His teaching and research focus on creative coding, digital image-making, and the intersections between art and computation. As professor of multimedia design at AUS, he leads experimental projects that investigate virtual and augmented reality as tools for exploring cultural heritage and spatial storytelling.

Angela Heinemann, director of the Sandstone Museum Havixbeck (Germany), is responsible for the curatorial and strategic development of one of Münsterland's key regional museums. Under her leadership, the museum is undergoing a transformation that connects traditional collections with digital and participatory exhibition formats. Her work emphasizes accessibility, education, and the integration of local narratives into broader cultural and technological contexts.

Robert Parthesius is a maritime historical archaeologist, heritage scholar, and museum professional who serves as Chair of the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE). He holds a doctorate in the History of European Expansion from the University of Amsterdam, previously worked as curator at the Amsterdam Historical Museum, and focuses on maritime and underwater cultural heritage, capacity building in the Indian

Ocean region, and inclusive, sustainable heritage practice ([profile](#)).

Biljana Volcevska (Moderator of satellite event at FH Münster, GER) is a lecturer at Tilburg University (NL) in the Department of Culture Studies (Faculty of Humanities and Digital Sciences). Her academic background includes a PhD in Memory and Heritage Studies with a focus on Southeast Europe. Her research interests include cultural policy, Europeanisation, memory politics, material culture, and heritage in the context of the former Yugoslav region — especially North Macedonia. Recent publications explore activism in heritage spectacles during Macedonian protests, the interplay between memory politics and EU integration, and gendered heritage in post-socialist Skopje.

Ralph Vituccio (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh) is an American filmmaker, educator, and media artist whose work bridges documentary, animation, and interactive storytelling. His films often address issues of social justice, technology, and human experience, and have been screened at major international festivals. At Carnegie Mellon University's School of Art and Entertainment Technology Center, he teaches courses in visual storytelling and digital media production. Vituccio's current projects explore how immersive and participatory media can be used to preserve personal and collective memory.

Victor Waal is a digital media professional and co-founder of [SpotAR](#), a company specializing in immersive technologies and augmented reality experiences. His work focuses on bridging technology, cultural heritage, and participatory storytelling. Through SpotAR, he develops innovative tools for documenting, visualizing, and sharing heritage sites and community narratives in new and engaging ways.

Alia Yunis (Moderator of satellite event at AUS Sharjah, UAE), visiting associate professor of film and heritage studies at NYU Abu Dhabi, works within the intersecting fields of media, environment and transoceanic heritage. A writer, filmmaker, journalist, her work has been translated into 10 languages. She recently co-edited, *Heritage Futures: Stories in the Global Heritage Industry*, with Robert Parthesius and Niccolò Cappalletto (Routledge, 2025). Her feature documentary, *The Golden Harvest*, continues to play in festivals and venues around the world. The Golden Harvest has led to *Tree Routed*, an interactive film platform globally connecting personal heritage stories about trees. She co-edited the book *Re-Orienting the Middle East: Film and Digital Media Where the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean Meet* (Indiana University Press, 2024). In 2010, she co-founded the *Zayed University Middle East Film Festival* (ZUMEFF), now the longest-running film festival in the Gulf.

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