

Safeguarding Syrian archaeological Heritage: humanities and natural sciences

Nieuwenhuysse, Olivier; Hiatlih, Khaled; Hakki, Rasha; al-Fakhri, Ayham; Ngan-Tillard, Dominique; Verlinden, Jouke; Lambers, Karsten; Buch, Katarina; Mara, Hubert

Publication date

2019

Document Version

Final published version

Citation (APA)

Nieuwenhuysse, O., Hiatlih, K., Hakki, R., al-Fakhri, A., Ngan-Tillard, D., Verlinden, J., Lambers, K., Buch, K., & Mara, H. (2019). *Safeguarding Syrian archaeological Heritage: humanities and natural sciences*. Abstract from Humboldt Kolleg Cultural Heritage, Amman, Jordan.

Important note

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

Takedown policy

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights. We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Safeguarding Syrian archaeological Heritage: humanities and natural sciences

Olivier Nieuwenhuys (presenting), Khaled Hiatlih, Rasha Hakki, Ayham al-Fakhri, Dominique Ngan-Tillard, Jouke Verlinden, Karsten Lamberts, Katarina Buch, Hubert Mara.

Centre for Global Heritage and Development
Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities, The Netherlands

Recent efforts to mitigate the on-going, relentless destruction of archaeological and historical heritage in the countries of the Middle East emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary work involving both the humanities and the natural sciences. Typically, projects bring a broad spectre of state-of-the-art technologies into play, often involving advanced analytical tools for virtual reconstruction. On the other hand, researchers acknowledge that it is vital to understand issues of identity, power and socio-economic development as a necessary condition to the success of any heritage initiative. We discuss these connections using as case studies two heritage projects recently concluded. The project *Scanning for Syria* involved producing virtual reproductions of Late Bronze Age (1200 BCE) cuneiform texts. The project *Focus Raqqa* began an assessment of the archaeological treasures lost from the archaeological museum in the city of Raqqa and a digital inventory for international police organizations. Both projects looked beyond the contemporary bays towards future reconstruction, had a tremendous public outreach, posed methodological challenges as well as ethical questions and paved the way for inspiring future work.