



Session

Heritage narratives through digital maps

Chairpersons:

Maria Cristina Manzetti (University of Cyprus) - Cyprus

Federica Di Biase (University of Cyprus) - Cyprus

Description and Motivation:

Digital maps are widely used in archaeology and heritage studies to analyse and present objective data. More rarely they also represent and explore subjectivity, as the case of deep or thick maps. In any case, by working on the geographical distribution of quantitative and/or qualitative data, maps allow scholars to imagine and reconstruct one or more valid, but often lost, stories tied to specific places. These stories deserve to be narrated to let both specialists and the general public achieve a deeper understanding of the places we inhabit. The role of data visualization is crucial, indeed a critical thought about how to manipulate all the elements of writing a narrative to be shown by a map is a priority to produce accessible, engaging, and educative content. At the same time, it is equally important to discuss about the proper tool to use to reach this aim. ArcGIS StoryMaps is a powerful and nowadays quite popular digital instrument to give voice to places and their hidden characteristics, but it is not the only one.

This session aims to explore the different ways heritage narratives can be represented by maps.

We welcome contributions showcasing case studies, tools, and methodologies for storytelling that integrate archaeological data, cultural heritage, historical

sources, and cartographic representations. Also, in this session we want to explore the impact that heritage narrative has on experiencing the sense of place, and its emotional engagement. Finally, we would like to discuss the advantages and challenges of heritage storytelling through maps, its usability, and its future potential: what are the current limitations, and how can they be overcome? Where do we want to go next? What can we do better? By addressing these questions, the session aims to enable scholars to advance the debate on the role of maps in heritage storytelling.

Target Audience:

The session wants to reach researchers, practitioners, and educators in archaeology, cultural heritage, and historical studies interested in innovative uses of maps as a means for digital storytelling. It also welcomes museum curators, heritage site managers, and public historians which need to engage in narrative creation for diverse audiences. More broadly, it is open to anyone who has an interest in data visualisation and communication strategies. Finally, software and tools developers working on mapping instruments can bring additional and meaningful insights into the discussion.

Keywords:

digital storytelling, heritage narratives, digital maps, sense of place

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