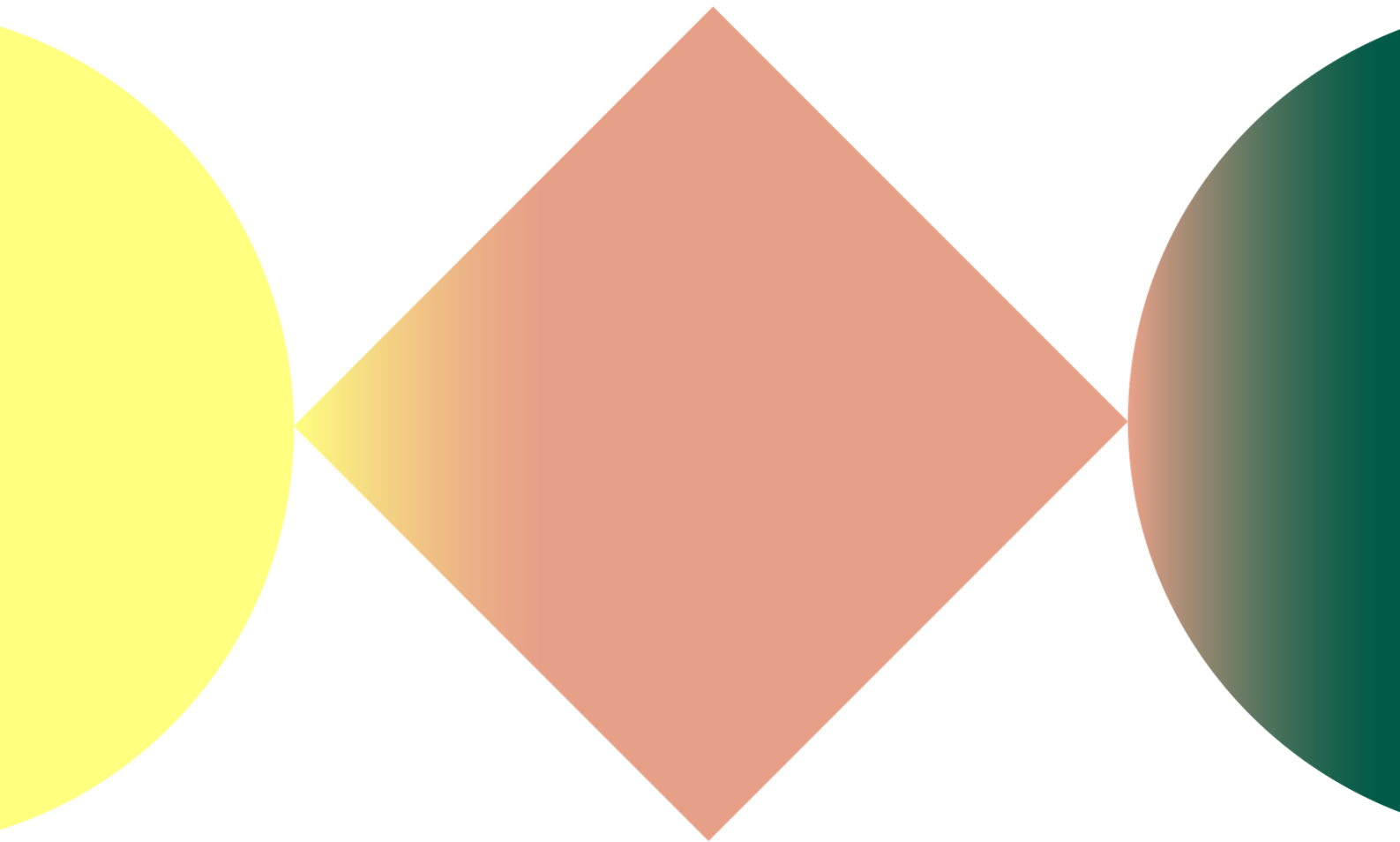


Call for Papers

Una Europa Cultural Heritage - Latin America Workshop



Heritage Futures in the Age of Polycrises: Mobilizing Cultural Heritage to Tackle Global Challenges

Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural
Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH)
Ciudad de México, México
17-19 February 2025

Una Europa is an alliance of 11 leading European research universities that aims to create a truly inter-university environment. Una Europa's six Focus Areas reflect pressing global and societal challenges. As an interdisciplinary research area, Cultural Heritage contributes to understanding identities promoting cohesion in communities disrupted by change and economic instability. Having built up a solid European network since 2019, the Self-Steering Committee Cultural Heritage now wishes to extend beyond Europe. This call is part of that ongoing effort.

As we navigate the profound interlocking crises of our time—what has been described as "polycrises"—cultural heritage is often seen as vulnerable to forces beyond its control. The COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating climate change, geopolitical conflicts, growing inequality, technological disruptions, and democratic backsliding have all threatened heritage landscapes, practices, and institutions. Yet, rather than solely positioning cultural heritage as a passive victim of these converging crises, this workshop seeks to radically shift the conversation: How can cultural heritage actively contribute to tackling polycrises? This interdisciplinary workshop invites heritage scholars, professionals, and activists to explore the potential of cultural heritage to offer resilience, innovation, and pathways forward in addressing today's most pressing global challenges. Can traditional knowledge systems help communities adapt to climate distortion? How might heritage landscapes and narratives foster social cohesion, countering the divisive forces of inequality and conflict? Could heritage institutions play a role in promoting democratic values, combating disinformation, and supporting civic engagement in an era of democratic backsliding? To what extent can the heritage field lead the way in sustainable resource management or technological innovation, including the ethical use of artificial intelligence and biotechnology? In sum, how can cultural heritage, the heritage sector, and heritage studies contribute to tackling these multifaceted global challenges? This workshop aims to foster an interdisciplinary and intersectoral dialogue that situates cultural heritage not only as a domain of conservation but as a vital resource in the search for productive ways to deal with polycrises (not necessarily to solve them).

Submission Details

Deadline: 13 December 2024 (decisions will be communicated the week after)

Materials to be submitted electronically to noel.salazar@kuleuven.be:

- Title and 300-word abstract of your contribution, clearly indicating your engagement with the workshop's topic.
- A declaration that you are willing to travel to Mexico in February 2025 (arriving on 16 February at the latest and staying until at least 20 February).
- A declaration whether you speak Spanish, using the [CEFR](#) to indicate your level of proficiency (because of the networking nature of the event, knowledge of the Spanish language is a plus).
- A declaration whether you are applying for a travel grant (only available for people affiliated with a Una Europa partner university, the maximum amount per Una Europa institution being set at €1,100).
- A declaration that you are willing to collaborate in a joint special issue or edited volume following the workshop.

We encourage submissions from both early career researchers and established scholars.

For travel grant reimbursements after the workshop, each non-KU Leuven participant who paid using their personal bank account will need to complete an [F1 form](#), as well as provide all relevant receipts and/or invoices. KU Leuven participants need to follow the usual procedure via KU-loket. If the payment was made by a university, an invoice must be forwarded to KU Leuven (including address, VAT number, account number). Depending on your university's policies, there might be overhead costs. Please send all (scans of) signed forms, receipts, and/or invoices to Bas Beaujean (bas.beaujean@kuleuven.be), who will collect and forward these reimbursement requests to the financial officer. Reimbursements are capped at €1,100 per Una Europa partner university. The KU Leuven will transfer the approved amount to the indicated bank account (personal accounts are acceptable) only after the form/invoice has been received and all supporting documentation has been provided.