

Events

IMG2023 – IMAGIN(G) HERITAGE

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The fourth biennial meeting of the conferences organized by IMG-Network was held at the University of L'Aquila, on July 6th and 7th, 2023, under the direction of Stefano Brusaporci. The theme chosen for this edition of the International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Image and Imagination was dedicated to *IMAGIN(G) HERITAGE*, a context that combines two very broad fields of research –those of Heritage and Images related to it– in the plurality of variations that this relationship can encompass.

The theme of the conference held in L'Aquila originated, on the one hand, from the observation of the growing role that populations, communities, inhabitants and users have manifested in recent decades in the definition of Heritage itself; on the other hand, from the growing awareness of the importance of the intangible dimensions of Heritage.

In both processes, the concept of Heritage has come to assume the nature of a 'discourse', that is, an act of participatory communication, according to a path of 'Heritage making', where the visual paradigm plays a role closely interrelated to the verbal one.

Moreover, if Heritage is traditionally bound to the themes of history and memory, visualization should not only be directed to the past, but should prove capable of embracing the

present for those values expressed by communities and populations, as well as by scholars and stakeholders. The visual dimension of Heritage discourse, thus interpreted, broadens its scope quite a bit: from 'a Heritage of Images' to 'imagine Heritage'.

Such a 'vision' of Heritage is called upon to cross multiple and diverse scientific and disciplinary domains: from the educational to the participatory and more generally public; from the graphic field to the visual and narrative; to finally address that variety of digital applications ranging from museums to archives.

And, in fact, the conference fostered participation and dialogue among representatives of scientific and cultural societies that are affected by the topics in various ways: Federica Zalabra, Director of the National Museum of Abruzzo; Francesca Fatta, President of the *Unione Italiana per il Disegno* (Italian Union for Drawing); Pier Cesare Rivoltella, President of the *Società Italiana di Ricerca sull'Educazione Mediale* (Italian Society for Research on Media Education); Maria Luisa Iavarone, President of the *Centro Italiano Ricerca Pedagogica* (Italian Center for Pedagogical Research); Serge Noiret, President of the AIPH Associazione Italiana Public History (Italian Association of Public History); Roberta Spallone, President

of the REAACH-ID Association; and Alessandro Luigini, President of the IMG-Network APS Association.

The conference offered an international dimension in the roster of keynotes and topics addressed in the respective papers: Pilar Chías Navarro of the Universidad de Alcalá developed the specificity of the contribution of representation in the study of Heritage by comparing its innovative aspects in relation to an established tradition of inquiry; Federica Zalabra also highlighted the role of technology in supporting art-historical narration, particularly in the context of the National Museum of Abruzzo, of which she is director; Serge Noiret, on the other hand, addressed another vital nerve center of the conference, namely the centrality of participation and knowledge sharing in a community, focusing on the connection between Public History and Cultural Heritage; last but not least, Renata Jadresin-Milic from the Unitec Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand, illustrated the outcomes of an interesting research project carried out in Aotearoa.

The digital volume of the Proceedings, edited by Stefano Brusaporci in the role of coordinator, with Pamela Mazièzza, Adriana Marra, Ilaria Trizio, Francesca Savini and Alessandra Tata, was published by the PUBBLICA publishing



Fig. 1. Banner of event.

house in Alghero; there were ninety papers in the proceedings, most written by multiple authors, for a considerably higher total number of participants. There were four best paper awards: Dario Ambrosini, Annamaria Ciccozzi,

Tullio De Rubeis and Domenica Paolletti for the contribution *Optical methods: imagin(g) the hidden world of cultural heritage*; Carlo Battini for his contribution *No contact detection technologies: artistic expression as well?*; Alessandra

De Nicola and Franca Zuccoli, for their contribution *Heritage fruition and interpretation. A path of kit construction: the importance of images*; Margherita Fontana for the contribution *A proposal for a bunker aesthetics from Paul Virilio's archaeology to virtual architecture*.

In the splendid setting of L'Aquila, the fourth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Image and Imagination renewed the fruitful partnership between IMG-network, which places the themes of Image, Imagery and Imagination at the center of its activities, and the *Unione Italiana per il Disegno*, a scientific society in the disciplinary field of Drawing that deals with the generation, construction and analysis of drawings, images and models as outcomes of scalar representations of existing or planned realities; of the design and visual translation of concepts, ideas and narratives, as expressions of nonverbal language, within two key areas, with possible interrelationships: one scientific-technological and one social-humanistic.

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