

UNESCO Symposium International

Heritage Futures. Preserving our shared past for a Sustainable World

RWTH Aachen University – 6–7 November 2025

Programme

Thursday, 06.11. | Senatssitzungszimmer 008, Main Building RWTH, Templergraben 55

14:00 → Official Opening and Welcome - Vice-dean Prof. Anne-Julchen Bernhardt
14:00 – 14:30 → Presentation of the UNESCO Chair for Cultural Heritage and Urbanism
14:30 – 15:00 → Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher - RWTH Aachen University - Keynote Lecture

Block 1: Cultural and Natural UNESCO Heritage

15:00 – 15:15 → Dr. Marta García de Casasola Gómez - University of Seville - [Assessing the impact on world heritage sites: from contemporary architecture to heritage co-creation](#)
15:15 – 15:30 → Dr. Manal Ginzarly - University of Liège - [Cultural Heritage Resilience in the Digital Age](#)
15:30 – 15:45 → Manon Richard - Project Manager - European Heritage Hub, Europa Nostra - [The European Heritage Hub: putting cultural heritage at the heart of Europe's social, green and digital transformation](#)
15:45 – 16:00 → Prof. Dr.-Ing Heribert Nacken – UNESCO Chair at RWTH Aachen University – [The use of VR as exemplified by the Paganini project in the city of El-Alisch, Israel.](#)
16:00 – 16:30 → Discussion
16:30 – 17:00 → Coffee Break

Block 2: Sustainability of Heritage

17:00 – 17:15 → PhD Baharak Ashrafi - RWTH Aachen University - [Balancing Growth and Preservation: Navigating Urbanisation and Sustainability through Impact Assessment](#)
17:15 – 17:30 → Dr. Matthias Ripp - World Heritage Coordinator, City of Regensburg - [Historic Urban Landscape and Heritage Systems as the Basis for Sustainable Urban Development](#)
17:30 – 17:45 → Dr. Julia Rey Pérez - University of Seville - [DINAMO: Protocol for the dynamic protection of urban heritage through social innovation and the study of threats. Application to the historic centre of Seville](#)
17:45 – 18:00 → Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund - UNESCO Chair at University of Heidelberg - [Potentials and Needs for the Use of Geospatial Technologies in UNESCO. Designated Sites for Sustainable Futures \(Online\)](#)
18:00 – 18:30 → Discussion
18:30 – 19:00 → Closing Day

20:00 → Conference dinner at Restaurant Elisenbrunnen

Friday, 07.11. | Generali Hall, Super C building, Templergraben 57

Block 3: Urban Heritage Preservation

09:00 – 09:15 → Dr. Blanca del Espino Hidalgo & Prof. Dr. Francisco José García Fernández - University of Seville - [Heritage as a key player in urban-territorial sustainability. An approach to the rural fabric, medium-sized cities and metropolitan areas](#)

09:15 – 09:30 → Dr.-Ing. Fabio Bayro Kaiser - UNESCO Chair at RWTH Aachen University - [From centre to periphery: metropolitan expansion and the pluralisation of urban memory in Bolivia](#)

09:30 – 09:45 → PhD. Vanessa Ziegler - University of Liège - [The invisible limits of visual integrity: A methodology for assessing the visual impact of urban development on World Heritage](#)

09:45 – 10:00 → Dr.-Ing. Irene Wiese von Ofen - Former head of the Essen Municipal Building and Planning Council - [About the way of an outstanding beginning as cultural heritage to a daily used outstanding heritage part of living in a big former industrial city](#)

10:00 – 10:30 → Discussion

10:30 – 10:45 → Coffee Break

Workshop: Heritage Futures Research

10:45 – 12:30 → **Workshop: Heritage Futures Research**

Multidisciplinary teamwork to design research proposals and to share teaching methodologies. Development of concepts aligned with European research projects (e.g., *Horizon Europe*).

12:30 - 13:00 → Official Closing of the Symposium

13:00 – 14:00 → Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 → **UNESCO Walk in Aachen (optional)**

Guided tour through the historic center of Aachen, with a focus on strategies of urban preservation and sustainability.