ACCE 2024

The Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment

Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast





The Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment (ACCE) is a transdisciplinary capacity building programme for the integrated management of culture heritage and the natural environment. It uses high-profile heritage sites and cultural landscapes as 'living labs' for building cross-sector knowledge and skills. It is the pedagogic arm of the Sites at the Intersection of Natural and Cultural Heritage (SXNCH) network.

SXNCH was co-founded by a group of researchers at the University of Oxford, the University of Bamberg, and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft in 2020. The network has benefited from discussion and exchange with a diverse set of global partners, especially during the symposia held in 2020 and 2023. An incomplete list of these organisations can be found in the end matter. We are especially grateful to our ongoing partnership with several organisations based in Jordan, in particular the Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA) and Sela, with whom we co-developed the initial framework for ACCE.

The inaugural ACCE took place in Italy over 2 weeks in October 2024. As well as our Jordanian partners, it benefited further from the involvement of the Pompeii Archaeological Park, the World Monuments Fund, Hiking the Amalfi Coast, and Forty Five Degrees. The academy was made possible due to the generous support of the Alan and Linde Katritzky Foundation.

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ACCE Pompeii Programme (20/10/2024 - 01/11/2024)

	Date	Day	Early Morning	Late Morning
	19/10/2024	Saturday		
Pompeii	20/10/2024	Sunday		
Pompeii	21/10/2024	Monday	Welcome by G. Zuchtriegel. Lectures: 1) Michette (Introduction to ACCE); 2) Calvanese (Management challenges Pompeii); 3) Sweeney (Conservation and Stonemasonry Training); 4) AlFarajat & Nawafleh (conservation and green development Petra)	
Pompeii	22/10/2024	Tuesday	Lectures 1) Michette (ACCE 2024); 2) Trainees & ACCE team present themselves; 3) Thomidou (Intro Strollology)	
Maiori	23/10/2024	Wednesday	**8:00** Departure from Pompeii to Maiori; departure PDTRA delegation	11:00 Meeting with 'Hiking the Amalfi Coast' (local association) at Palazzo Mezzacapo, Maiori
Maiori	24/10/2024	Thursday	**8:00** Field trip with 'Hiking the Amalfi Coast'	
Maiori	25/10/2024	Friday	**9:00** Meeting with Elena and Ahmed (SELA) and Online meeting with EPICC Group (Kenta)	
Maiori	26/10/2024	Saturday	**9:00** Departure from Maiori to Ravello with public busses	11:30 - 13:30 Ravello walk with local guide Alessio Amato; visit Villa Rufolo
Maiori	27/10/2024	Sunday	Free-time	
Pompeii	28/10/2024	Monday	**8:00** Departure from Maiori to Pompeii	**11:00** Initial steps assessment clay-barrier / material transport; group work
Pompeii	29/10/2024	Tuesday	**8:30** Assessment clay-barrier / group work	**10:00** Olive harvest at the Casa della nave Europa, Pompeii
Pompeii	30/10/2024	Wednesday	**8:30** Assessment clay-barrier / risk assessment / biodiversity transect	
Pompeii	31/10/2024	Thursday	**9:00** Group work and reporting	
Pompeii	01/11/2024	Friday	Check out Pompeii	
	02/11/2024	Saturday		
		Legend	Lesson rooms ecc.	On-site

18/10/2024

Afternoon	Evening	Comments	
Arrival first trainees		Hotel del Sole, confIrmed	
Check In Pompeii (Hotel del Sole: after 14:00)	Social dinner	At **19:30** dinner booked at pizzeria "I Matti"; Via Plinio, 53; Pompei	Pompeii
Visit Pompeii new excavations (ACCE group&PDTRA&SELA)		At **9:15** start at the Auditorium; catering breakfast&light lunch	Pompeii
Walk in the excavation site of Pompeii (Strollology)		At **9:00** start lectures at the lesson room	Pompeii
Group work and interviews	Cooking together at the apartments	At **8:00** transfer of the group with rented bus; Angelina Apartments; Via G**.** Capone 45; Maiori	Maiori
	Social dinner, group & SELA delegation;	At **8:00** start Hiking; dinner at Hotel Sole, Via G**.**Capone 7/11; Maiori (contact 3318446855)	Maiori
Selection of groups; group work; discussion	Dinner SELA delegation at Cetara	At **9:00** meeting at: Panoramic Residence; Via S**.** Tecla 26; Maiori	Maiori
Free-time; volontary visit Villa Cimbrone; core team meeting		At **9:00** departure from Maiori; contact guide Ravello Alessio Amato 348 53 20 964	Maiori
			Maiori
13:00 On-site tour with Katrin (Intro Heritage Environment)	**16:30** registered lectures: 1) Afshari (Fraunhofer; Urban climate models); 2) Wiggins (Working Globally, Learning Locally)	At **8:00** transfer of the group with rented bus	Pompeii
Assessment clay-barrier / reporting time		Lesson room for group work/reporting	Pompeii
Reporting time		Picnic in the excavation site; lesson room for group work/reporting	Pompeii
Final Get-together / transport material clay-barrier	Good bye dinner	At **19:30** Dinner booked at pizzeria "I Matti"; Via Plinio, 53; Pompei	Pompeii
			Pompeii

Possible extra arrival/departure days	Comments



"We had a fight with a crazy shepherd"
"it is the parents"
"the income from the parks comes
but we don't know where it is invested

"Imagine what we could achieve with
people walk the path of the Lords in sandals, and th
get injured: then they must be rescued
by helicopter." Maintenance is easier
if people respect the environment



We could - spread
the tourists acro
the year - the imp
on infrastructure
be less.
"it's a tragedy!"



Artist: Willow Langdale-Smith

Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment 2024:

A living lab for exploring and reframing the relationship between the historic and natural environment, transdisciplinary knowledge creation and exchange, caring for heritage and responding to environmental change.

The inaugural ACCE 2024 took place in Pompeii Archaeological Park and the Amalfi Coast, Italy. Both of these sites exemplified the challenges and opportunities of integrated environmental management, and allowed us to examine how different UNESCO World Heritage sites hold meaning for diverse groups of people, whether local inhabitants, visiting tourists, or even ourselves -- an international collective falling somewhere just outside that continuum. As you will find in the pages of this report, we examined these sites in conversation with each other, non-governmental organizations, institutional heritage representatives, heritage professionals, and local stakeholders; we additionally contextualized these sites within ongoing efforts to realize an ACCE in Petra, Jordan, and the ACCE umbrella project Sites at the Intersection of Natural and Cultural Heritage (SXNCH).

Throughout ACCE , we drew upon multifarious and multifaceted methodologies to engage with complex questions of heritage conservation and environmental management, including both in-person and digital connections and relationship-building. We met with organizations based in both Italy and Jordan to understand the factors surrounding heritage at risk in both countries, and learned about community commitment from a broad range of groups caring for and about material and environmental heritage. The distinctions between and among these conversations strengthened our work, demonstrating the significance and impact of local context, government authority, cultural attitudes, and the varied relationships between tourists and residents.

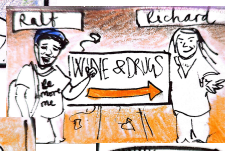
Our goal with this report is to share our accomplishments from the 2024 Academy, including what we learned; how we worked together; who we met; where we situated our knowledge; and why the results of this collaborative work are significant within broader efforts to study and mitigate the impact of environmental factors on UNESCO World Heritage sites. This report includes documentation of our activities during the two-week Academy, as well as detailed descriptions of our methodologies, encounters, questions, values, apprehensions, and outputs.

The report begins with a discussion of our epistemologies, drawing upon the disparate backgrounds and experiences of our team. Next follows an exploration of walking, and how our team approached landscape, mapping, and sensory engagement. Then, we narrate our conversations, network-building, and collaboration with the different organizations alongside whom we had the privilege to learn and create. We then turn to more in depth recounting of conversations with tourists, heritage workers, and locals connected to our study sites in Italy, examining and reflecting upon our own presence in heritage spaces as well as how these spaces are viewed, challenged, and inhabited by others. The final section covers some of the more practical workshops we developed: a biodiversity survey for historic masonry, a novel risk management approach for managing nature at heritage sites, an olive harvest in the archaeological park, and an assessment of using locally sourced clay to protect a necropolis.

This report reflects the diversity of learning experiences and personal growth we shared both as a collective and as individuals. We walked, drew, collected stones, cooked, hiked, felt, presented, and interviewed amidst other practices; we built community; we let ourselves imagine new ways to exist as a collective and how to carry what we learned and experienced together into our future work, and the future work of others. This report is a closing account for ACCE 2024, but hopefully only one point in the constellation of conservation and care for heritage and our environments.

We hope this report acts to inform, inspire, or instigate elements of your own existing and future work.


Gastrana


Ralf
Richard
WINE & DINE


Dennis


Katrin


Kelley


Suad


Max


David


Giacomo

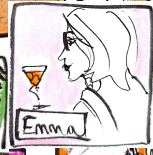

Martin


Alkuatis


Jolea


Swamya


Willow


Emma


PJ
From the Philippines


Sature


Malapeza
Pia


Hoshil

Epistemologies

"We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own - indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.

This will happen if we see the need to revive our sense of belonging to a larger family of life, with which we have shared our evolutionary process."
Wangari Maathai

A constellation of methods, a table of possibilities. We draw together expertise and experiences informed by our disparate environments, our personal journeys, our professional practices. We learn from one another, and meet the challenges of heritage conservation and care for the environment with a united front, enriched by what we each bring to the Academy.

Our programme and activities emerged in response to this transdisciplinary pedagogy: we built upon and blended methodologies shared by project members during workshops and shaped them according to collective needs and insight.

This section outlines our approaches to these disicplinary intersections and the methodologies we carried with us to Pompeii and Maiori, as well as those we developed during our two-week collaboration.

- First, each team member articulates what they brought to the academy, drawing upon background, theoretical grounding, and personal/professional experiences
- Then, we demonstrate how our disparate sections draw from similar wells in terms of methodology, creativity, intention, and care
- Finally, the collage shares what we learned, what exists because we journeyed together, and what we carry with us away from the academy and into our future work

Orienting ourselves:
Team members articulates what they bring to the Academy

I bring an expanded approach to spatial practice and architecture based on situated knowledge. Also, a set of methods and means that refer to a way of being and learning actively engaging with our surroundings. *An understanding of learning as a life long, trans-generational process that transcends disciplines, methods and localities, and eagerness to learn and question established but outdated divides and vocabularies.*

I bring an approach to heritage which does not value materials over living people and creatures, which can be changed or challenged by a multiplicity of voices and the course of time, in all of its multi-temporal splendor. I appreciate thinking about the construction of the past, how sites are curated and organized by people and politics, and using non-linear approaches in archaeological work; I seek to understand how (im)material remains impact the present and shape our future.

I bring.. an outsider's perspective & Posthuman ethics & practice, education & psychology. Perhaps also a reflection on how we consume nature & resources for Human activity with a sensitivity to other systems, understanding how we are influenced by economic & political institutions.

A curiosity to learn from nature, from our past and from other people. A desire to discover new stories hidden in the historic environment that help preserve their significance for future generations.

I bring stories and experiences from the desert where the sun beats down on the earth day after day, from conversations with communities and people who have built their homes with their own hands among hills and stones. I bring more questions than answers and a desire to find people with the same questions that brought me here.

With me are the 7,641 vibrant islands, rich cultures, and treasured heritage of the Philippines — all captured in one powerful word: Mabuhay! This is life in its fullest!

I bring my introspective nature, a genuine openness to expanding my horizons, and a passion for innovative, out-of-the-box solutions. My approach is grounded in empathy, fuelled by curiosity, and driven by a constant eagerness to explore fresh perspectives and ideas.

I bring many questions about how heritage practice could be more inclusive and just. An eagerness to learn and discuss how we can improve our mechanisms for empowering groups and communities to decide what heritage is and how we want to care for it.

I offer passionate insights based on navigating the Indian Ocean through anthropological and archaeological perspectives. Grounded in traditional and indigenous worldviews, I intend on practicing mindfulness and compassion as integral philosophies for human, non-human and more-than-human entities in heritage management.

I bring a comprehensive understanding of climate change adaptation strategies, beginning with the analysis of various hazards impacting heritage sites. This approach involves identifying the primary climate hazards, assessing their specific effects on these sites, and determining effective adaptation measures. Additionally, I emphasize the importance of involving local communities in this process through innovative dialogues and collaborative interventions, fostering engagement and ensuring the preservation of heritage sites.

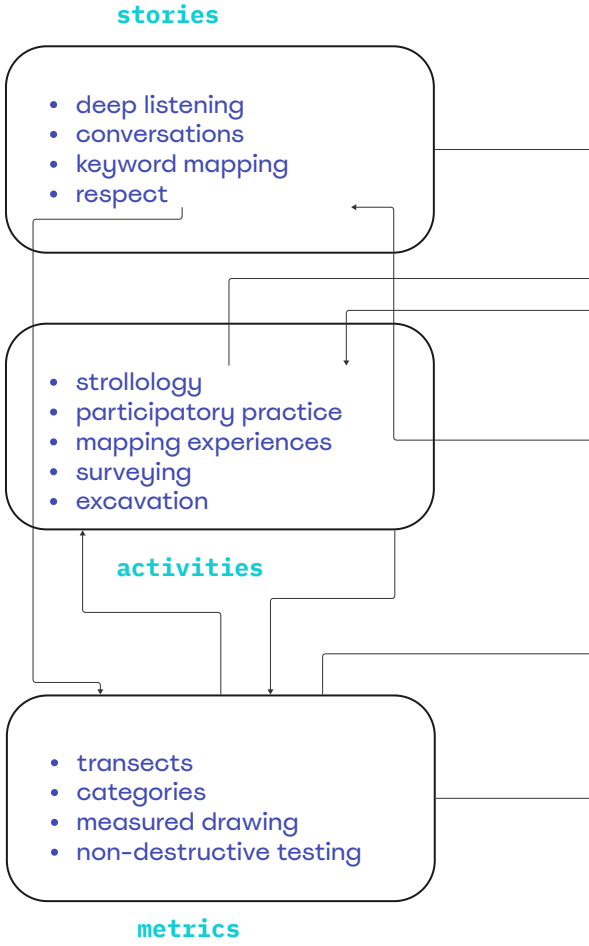
I bring to this academy the resilience and hopes of an underprivileged generation, brimming with potential and striving to counter poverty and conflict through heritage preservation. I come with big questions, deep curiosity and a lot of critical thinking, shaped by a challenging background where catching up with the proper pace for dealing with urgent issues isn't always easy. I'm a gentle soul offering a unique perspective in my understanding of spatial practices rooted in contemplation and creativity.

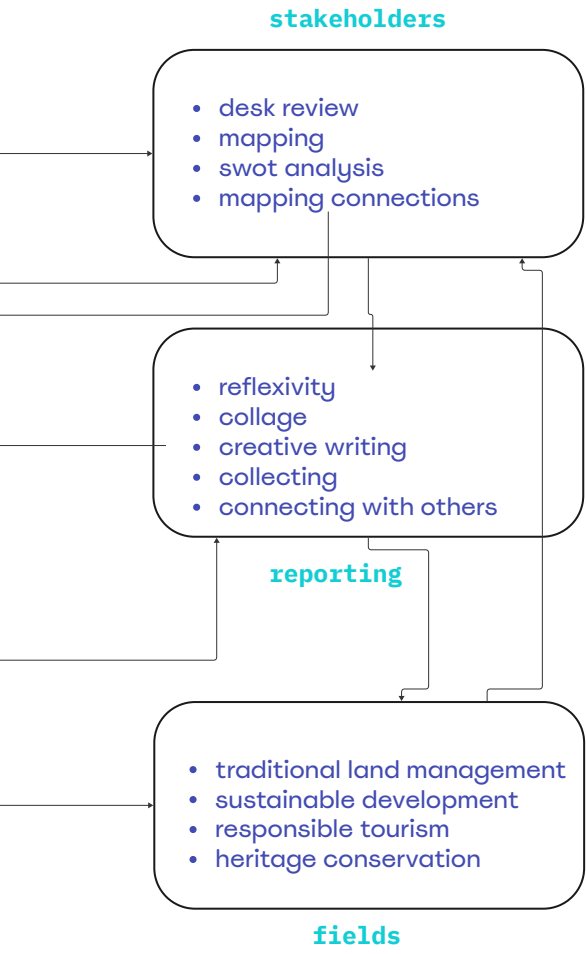
I bring two prisms to ACCE: one is an interdisciplinary lens that merges the multifaceted disciplines of environmental and cultural geography with heritage science. The second is a joy in reframing and reconfiguring perspectives; for instance, viewing Pompeii as a living archive of both built and natural heritage across time, inviting reflection on its many lives and transformations.

I bring my passion for reportage photography to ACCE, capturing unique moments with our fantastic group of people. My initial experiences with the risk assessment methodology opened up many new perspectives, so I'm excited to introduce others to this approach. Behind the scenes, I do my best to ensure that the Academy runs as smoothly as possible.

I bring my history of excavation and working in the physicality of the historic environment, and like to encourage people to learn by getting their hands dirty and experiencing the feel of the world around them

I bring experience in practical archaeological methods and long-term interdisicplinary engagement with Pompeii. I bring my love for this site, cultivated over years of working with its people, landscape, and materials, and hope to share this appreciation with others.


stories
deep listening
conversations
keyword mapping
respect
strollology
participatory practice
mapping experiences
surveying
excavation
activities
transects
categories
measured drawing
non-destructive testing
metrics


stakeholders
desk review
mapping
swot analysis
mapping connections
reflexivity
collage
creative writing
collecting
connecting with others
reporting
traditional land management
sustainable development
responsible tourism
heritage conservation
fields









cooking



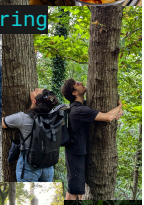


language sharing

olive harvesting





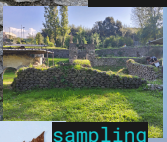






biodiversity lane - transect





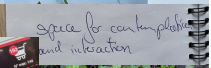
sampling







space for contemplation and interaction







sensing-grounding






Hiking
building relationships
connecting with nature
monitoring - clay barrier
stone picking
risk assessment

Stro

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
Laozi
Tao Te Ching

llol

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to."
J.R.R. Tolkien
The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of The Ring

ogy

An exercise of our minds and our selves: in this section we explore the disparate landscapes of Pompeii Archaeological Park, the hills beyond the Amalfi Coast towns of Maiori and Minori, and the harsh cliffs of Capri. Our goal while walking was to think critically and carefully about our surroundings, our impact within and upon nature, and to notice one another in relation to each environment we encountered.

What follows is a discussion of walking as a non-disciplinary method employed throughout our time with ACCE. We describe the practicalities of walking alongside our observations, what we found challenging as well as what we discovered but did not expect. Finally, we present our multi-sensorial findings from each of the contexts in which we employed this practice.

As will be treated with greater depth in the section "Narratives", this exercise helped us contextualize ourselves within this project as neither tourist nor local, individuals whose presence nonetheless had an impact upon our environments. Interrogating and understanding this impact is necessary for the work we set out to do, for building long-term, reciprocal relationships, and for pursuing conservation with care.

WALKING AS MAPPING

One of the experimental non-disciplinary methods introduced at the academy to enhance knowledge exchange among an inspiring international group of participants from diverse backgrounds—climate activism, architecture, archaeology, heritage law, and environmental science, was reflexive walking, inspired by the science of Strollology and Psychogeography.

The aim was to address the significant pressures from overtourism and climate emergency —critical issues that the breathtaking sites of Maiori and Pompeii are facing– rethink the interrelationships of living environments and challenge the outdated divide between culture and nature.





Our perception of "the landscape" is shaped by the images we form in our heads, influenced by what we have learned to see—a process deeply rooted in "our" cultural heritage. At the same time, our understanding of the landscape is outdated and heavily influenced by Western ideals, which fail to keep pace with the ongoing changes the landscape itself is undergoing. Our culture's ability to perceive landscapes was shaped by Roman poets, Renaissance painters, and English landscape gardeners, who mastered the art of depicting the landscape. As such, landscape is a collective learning endeavor. But each of us must also go through this learning process individually. Perceiving landscape is something that must be learned, both historically and individually.

Walking, however, engages us physically with real space and time, creating a living map of the present moment. As we move through spaces, our bodies become tools for mapping, capturing the essence of space and time in a dynamic and ever-evolving process. Modern modes of transportation—cars, trains, buses—have shaped our perception of our surroundings, making it possible to travel from all over the world in a matter of hours, as we also did as a group to reach Pompeii. We are more mobile than ever before, yet we experience the world in fast-forward, with the images and ideas in our heads becoming increasingly blurred. Our minds store fragmented sequences that generalize our impressions, distorting the way we perceive the landscape.

James Corner describes mapping as a profound cultural project in "The Agency of Mapping". It is not merely the aesthetics of maps, but their functionality—how they reveal hidden potentials and construct new realities. Historically, maps interpreted the unknown, anticipating and shaping new territories. In today's digital age, where Google has seemingly mapped everything, the question arises: Has everything truly been mapped?

Mapping as a Reality Amplifying Instrument, a method for engaging in the world
Mapping remains a vital tool for engaging with the world, enhancing our understanding and cre ating new narratives. When we read a map, we interpret the perspective of its creator. Mapping p rompts usto question: Who is mapping? How does mapping transform the environment? What is the interplay between our movements and the spaces we traverse?

Richard Long, a British land artist, highlights the deep historical resonance of walking, connecting u s to humanity's earliest migrations. Walking encompasses various traditions — from the pilgrim to the poet and always allows for diverse, personal interpretations.

Experiential Mapping in Parco Archeologico di Pompei
The walks in the Parco Archeologico di Pompei were a profound exercise in experiential mapping. As participants moved through this ancient site, their bodies became instruments of mapping, intertwining the present with the echoes of the past. The ruins provided a backdrop for reflective engagement, where participants contemplated themes of resilience, decay, and cultural continuity. This immersive experience allowed for a deep, embodied understanding of preservation and the dynamic nature of cultural heritage.



Richard Long's *A Line Made By Walking* (1967)

Hiking the Amalfi Coast: Mapping Through Movement
The hiking expeditions along the Amalfi Coast offered another dimension to our mapping practices. These hikes were more than physical journeys; they were explorations of the intricate relationships between the environment and human perception. The breathtaking landscapes and challenging terrains acted as catalysts for introspection and group dialogue. Each step taken along the coast contributed to a living map, capturing the sensory and emotional experiences of the participants. This mapping through movement emphasized the transformative power of engaging with the natural world.

Rediscovering Observation
Far too seldom do we leave the world of postcards and the virtual world. We hardly observe at all. Our spatial disciplines have become desk sciences. Walk science seeks out the place and the living. Try to rediscover observation. Our perception of landscapes is shaped by historical and individual learning processes. In a fast-paced world dominated by blurred, generalized images, there is a pressing need to slow down and rediscover observation. Viewing landscapes with fresh perspectives reveals hidden elements and fosters a deeper connection to time and space.

Walking and mapping instructions

This is a visual investigation to capture single moments of landscape, cities, people and more. Reduce speed and focus on the details. The 2 weeks will be a series of stations that we will remember in retrospect. Start your exploration by looking for a trace of something that you don't yet know what it is. Like the archeologists in Pompeii. Challenge your disciplinary goggles, media, and methods.

1. Find a trace and follow it throughout your walk. If you feel like losing it, go back and revisit.
2. Try to walk in slow motion. How does this change your perception of space?
3. Try to walk diagonally, backwards or follow someone.
4. Try to follow a straight line no matter what. What challenges does this entail?
5. Focus on your ears. What sounds do you hear the most? What is the sound of Pompeii?
6. How does it smell?
7. Feel the ground under your feet. Describe the walk through this sensation.
8. Lay down and feel the ground. The vibrations, the temperature the structure of the stones.
9. Observe situations of care and maintenance, and everyday life.
10. .....

Strollology was introduced by sociologist Lucius Burckhardt in the 1980s, and critiques 1960s-70s urbanism by synthesizing mobility, perception, and design. This method mirrors the reciprocal relationship between people and their environments, emphasizing reflective walking as a means to explore the qualities of space.









Foto: Courtesy the artist, © Marina Abramović / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2024
Marina Abramović "Great Wall of China Landscapes and Portraits", 1988



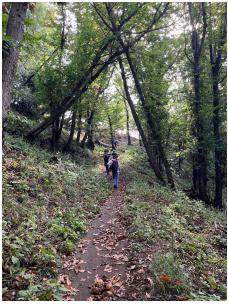


Photo from 1987: Lucius Burckhardt's action with students in the Dönche is considered the 'original walk' of promenadology. Klaus Hoppe /Martin Schmitz Publishers

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

During our program, we engaged in critical reflective walks and mapping exercises, collecting multisensory impressions. We followed traces to unexpected destinations, creating personal "postcards" that encapsulated our subjective perceptions and research interests.
In conclusion, mapping as an analytical method at ACCE provided a framework for exploring the intricate relationships between people and spaces. Through reflective walking and mapping, participants developed a deeper appreciation of the aesthetic and social qualities of their surroundings, laying the groundwork for innovative approaches to environmental perception and action.
Broadly speaking, it is about the way in which people perceive, experience and interpret their environment (landscapes and urban spaces) - and to understand/explore this in terms of cultural history and through experimental practices. In the practice of reflexive walking, the complex relationships between space and people are explored, the focus is directed to 'invisible', everyday aspects of the environment and awareness of the aesthetic and social qualities of spaces is heightened.

THE SENSORY EXPERIENCE:

Despite coming from diverse disciplines, we all shared a common understanding of the importance of "experiencing spaces" in hopes to uncover what lies beyond the surface-level impressions or the elements that would typically catch the eye first.
During the academy, we conducted two main experiential exercises exemplifying the importance of sensory immersion and its role in discovering deeper layers of meaning, not only within natural and heritage sites but also within ourselves.

This approach is rooted in the principles of phenomenology in architecture, which emphasizes "feeling" the environment as a way to value the human experience; fostering self-discovery and nurturing self-reflection all while leaving room for interpretation. After every exercise, we engaged in group discussions to share our experiences. These discussion circles broadened the collective understanding of the sites we interacted with and highlighted the interconnection of individual perspectives, hence strengthening the bonds between participants.

SOLO WALK THROUGH THE PARCO:

Our first exercise was conducted at the archaeological site of Pompeii, where we agreed to dedicate two hours after lunch to go on solitary, silent walks through the alleys of the ancient city and fully immerse ourselves in the site.
This exercise wasn't solely about observation but rather about using all our senses to connect with the space we were in. The goal was to document the paths we took in our notebooks, whether through drawing some sort of map of our path, sketches, written observations or any creative medium that captured the elements that intrigued us on our solo walk. These elements could range from tangible details to intangible sensations; a feeling, a sound, a smell, or anything in between. We had to let ourselves completely go and be open to soak in anything coming to us effortlessly, allowing the site to communicate with us.
To make the exercise even more interesting, we all had the same starting point to our solo walks; the main gate by the amphitheater. From there, each one of us chose their unique path, and this choice itself became a topic of reflection; what influences the paths we choose ? Eventually, the variety of our paths was interesting as some of us took long meandering routes while others opted for shorter paths and a couple of us chose to remain stationary, focusing on one area, being the focal point and observing the movements and paths of others around them. This sedentary approach is also an interesting response to the exercise.

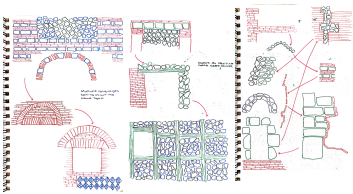
In the discussion circle afterwards, two main aspects stood out to me the most. The first one was the natural flow of conversation between the participants.

As each one of them shared their experience during their solo walk, the discussion seamlessly transitioned from one speaker to another, as each participant found common points and connections between their observations and those of the previous one speaking. This created a dynamic, collective narrative drawing a giant sensory map of diverse perspectives but in a continuous thread, bringing everyone around the discussion circle closer.

The second aspect that caught my attention was how various elements highlighted by participants, was a reflection of their background and deeply influenced their interpretation of the site. In this way, every single one of us found a bit of themselves in the site. Our observations became a reflection of our expertise, highlighting how our respective fields shaped our way of engaging with the space around us.

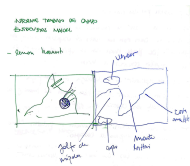
For instance, Kelley, our enthusiastic archaeologist, used that afternoon's rain as inspiration, smudging wet soil onto the blank pages of her notebook, capturing the changing texture, color and smell of the ground; a tangible memory of Pompeii to take home. She captured an interesting phrase she heard from tourists during her walk and questioned what it means as a common expectation of Pompeii. How is the site alive, and what does it mean to go in search of the dead? Where are the narratives of Pompeii which reach past this final moment of horror? Is there space for them?





Solea, our radiant cultural heritage conservator, focused on patterns of stone, sketching their arrangements and understanding how different forms might have been created. Simultaneously, our dynamic conservator Emma specializing in the art of Conservation Stonemasonry, also identified distinctive stone floor patterns in different parts of the site.

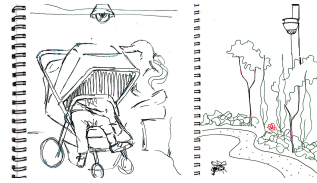
David, our thoughtful conservation architect, who works closely with locals in rural communities back in Chile, turned his attention to demograhics of visitors, sketching human scales and different physical appearances and poses of people he came accross, along with the natural relief around Pompeii (Mount Vesuvius).





As for our cheerful educator and conservator PJ, he observed how children interacted with the site, noting their unique way of interpreting and perceiving scales, textures as though the ruins were a playground for them to explore.

Max, our peaceful urban planner, mapped the linguistic diversity among visitors, capturing snippets of conversations and ordinary moments between family members or friends, along with other sketches of architectural elements in Pompeii.





And Syrine, an architect, sought auditory and visual elements that defined her path, intentionally seeking silence by deviating from typical visitor flows and explore the lesser-visited areas of the site until she got to a completely empty view point where she sat in the rain and tried to watch closely hidden flora and traces of fauna.

As for our contemplative anthropologist, Suramya, he decided to bend the exercise's guidelines by choosing to sit quietly, contemplate and forgo written documentation of what intrigues him. Instead, he only shared his reflections orally with us. He expressed how, by being physically present in grandiose places like the ancient city of Pompeii, surrounded by monumental constructions such as the amphitheater, he is inevitably drawn to think about all the slaves and labouring, oppressed individuals who actually built these structures. He spoke of the immense suffering they might have endured in their lives, leaving behind treasures of heritage for future generations. For Suramya, being in such places feels like an opportunity to pay tribute to their resilience, honor their memories and reflect on the human cost of creating such legacies.

These interpretations of the archeological site of Pompeii highlight "situated knowledge" and the influence of personal expertise on perception, thus demonstrating how professional lenses could enrich site analysis and understanding.

CONTEMPLATION IN AMALFI MOUNTAINS:

Our second contemplative exercise took place during a hiking day in the mountains of the Amalfi Coast, following a trail from Maiori to Minori with the "Hiking the Amalfi Coast" group. We set off early in the morning, making various stops to discuss architectural elements, interventions by the group, and other relevant points along the way. As we progressed, the landscape shifted. Buildings became sparse, the vegetation thicker, and eventually, there was no more pre-defined paths and we found ourselves on donkey paths; interesting to use this expression somewhere where the donkey is symbolic of the city and the entire history of the people in Amalfi Coast's heritage!

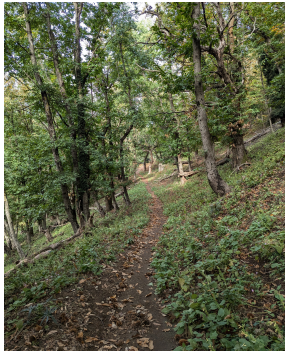








While we spent much of our hike in constant conversation, asking questions, and learning about local history from our guides, for this exercise we spent ten minutes together in silence. Without speaking, we listened to the environment and focused on our natural surroundings without foregrounding our own presence along the trail, in the forest. It took practice to train our minds and eyes to engage with and interpret this 'silent' break, which was filled with the rustle of leaves in the wind, small animals in the undergrowth, and the distant buzz of coastal traffic down in the village. This pause further encouraged us to look slowly and attend to how the light continually moved among the trees and the traces of human presence, both in the distant and more recent past, evident along trail in the form of stone foundations and trampled vegetation off-path. As a multi-sensory experience, this exercise challenged us to contemplate and complicate how this environment existed around and without us.

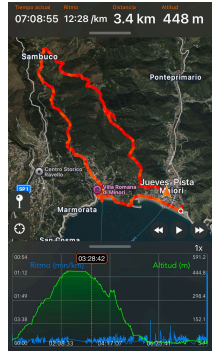




At one point, Alkistis and Martin veered off the path to embrace a large tree; a "grounding" or "earthing" practice believed to help balance energy levels and promote calm. Watching them, we soaked up the serenity of the moment, as if we were also recharging simply by being present in this natural sanctuary.

When the exercise ended, transitioning back to conversation felt gradual and delicate. Most of us walked in silence for a while, allowing our footsteps to reintroduce sound into the stillness before we spoke. It felt as though we were seeking permission from nature to resume our chatter. Some even whispered at first, as if not to disrupt the harmony we had just experienced.

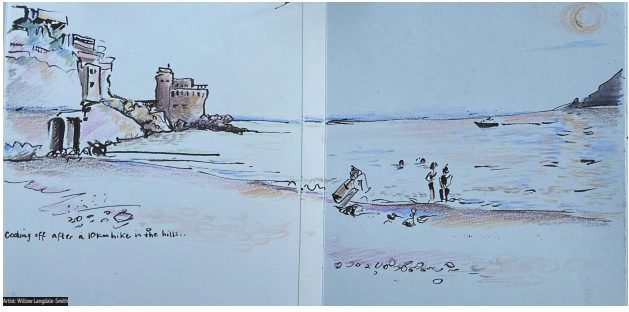
Conservation and care for the environment are both integral elements of the ACCE project. We learned to recognize the signs of a landslide and documented erosion risk factors alongside our exercise in silence, standing still, looking slowly; these skills are most functional in tandem, when we understand and acknowledge our own impact upon and presence in a heritage environment.







Through these brief but powerful exercises, we learned the value of slowing down and consciously engaging with the natural world. These practices offered us not only mental clarity and emotional balance but also a profound sense of connection with the environment; a reminder of the harmonious relationship we can nurture with the world around us.



Precedents

"To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe."
Marilyn vos Savant

"Chi trova un amico trova un tesoro."
{She who finds a friend finds a treasure.}
Italian Proverb

We had the opportunity to meet, collaborate with, and learn from a variety of organizations throughout the ACCE project, ranging from grassroots heritage education practitioners in Jordan to members of senior management for a UNESCO World Heritage site in Italy. In between, we found creative collectives, local NGOs, and heritage professionals.

In this section, you will find a broader discussion of our approach to knowledge exchange alongside a description of our engagement with many of the groups and individuals with whom we had the privilege to collaborate.

- Pompeii Archaeological Park
- Pompeii Sustainable Preservation Project
- Hiking the Amalfi Coast
- Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority
- SELA
- World Monuments Fund
- Forty Five Degrees
- Education Program in Climate and Conservation

Finally, we offer an overview of institutional hierarchies for the three World Heritage sites central to this project. As we prioritize working at a wide range of institutional levels, seeking to connect groups with different reaches, it is crucial to understand the form and function of of these incredible sites we seek to conserve, study, and care for.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Across the 2 weeks of ACCE we engaged with several organisations working at the two sites we visited - Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast - as well as our 'remote test site', Petra. These organisations ranged from the authorities that are responsible for decision making and management, to grass-roots enterprises aiming to build capacity. We engaged with these groups in a variety of different ways. Some delivered presentations to us about work they are doing to manage cultural heritage sites more sustainably, others engaged with us more immersively, over several days, to teach us first hand about their activism or pedagogic mission. In this sense, each organisation provided some inspiration for the broader ACCE objectives, to establish transdisciplinary training programs for complex heritage sites and their surrounding environment.

This approach also spoke directly to the guiding principle of ACCE: horizontal knowledge exchange. This means we always start from the position that we do not presume to offer solutions. We begin by understanding what is happening already, how effective it is, what support or additional knowledge it could benefit from, how these approaches could help other places facing similar challenges. We recognize that local communities and stakeholders are deeply familiar with the urgent challenges they face, and aim to learn from their local circumstances to build a globally applicable model.

The following pages introduce 7 of the organisations we engaged with. They detail how and where we met them and exchanged knowledge, what we learnt from their approach and how it felt applicable to our emerging mission. At the end we provide some thoughts on what the wider opportunities of this knowledge exchange approach could be.





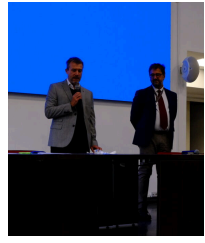
Pompeii Archaeological Park



The opening conference of ACCE 2024 began with two presentations from senior management of the Pompeii Archaeological Park. The Director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, welcomed our participants and the Jordanian delegates to Pompeii and spoke fondly of the educational role cultural heritage can play. He was particularly excited by the cross disciplinary approach of the academy, and recognised both the challenges but also the opportunities of integrated heritage management.



Vincenzo Calvanese, the Technical Manager, then gave a presentation on a variety of ongoing initiatives from a multidisciplinary perspective. In particular, he spoke about some of the environmental management issues, discussing challenges around water drainage, the work to establish a 'green belt' around Pompeii to support biodiversity and improve visitor comfort, and some of the exciting land management initiatives, including the olive tree harvest and other cultivation on the site. He spoke about the challenges of managing high tourist numbers. In 2023, Pompeii had over 4 million visitors, an average of 5 visitors per 100 m2 per day. But as Vincenzo pointed out, it is not the average that matters but the flow. At peak times and during hot weather, visits can become difficult to manage, another good reason for the green belt.



Sig. Calvanese also spoke about use of advanced technologies. These ranged from planning systems to improve site management and detect potential clashes in conservation planning, to the use of drones for automated surveys, to the installation of photovoltaic roof tiles at the Villa of Mysteries.

Pompeii Sustainable Preservation Project (PSPP)



2018 cohort of PSPP students. Credit: PSPP

The Pompeii Sustainable Preservation Project (PSPP) was a 10 year research and capacity building project coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics. It ran from 2014 to 2023, with the key outputs being three separate summer schools aimed at young conservators. It was in many ways the precursor to ACCE, with many of the international team behind PSPP going on to run ACCE, some central themes carrying over and even some continuation of specific workshop topics (such as the Clay Barrier project). The main difference between the PSPP and ACCE is that the latter expanded the focus of capacity building and skills training from conservation-restoration (and some associated disciplines such as archaeology), to a much broader transdisciplinary field that included architecture, ecology, anthropology, climate-activism etc.

Other aspects carried across from PSPP to ACCE. These included the concept of 'living labs' as a pedagogic mode for embedding practice attuned to real-world challenges, the framing of transferable skills and knowledge, and the perspective of 'learning from the past' to safeguard traditional techniques and materials for holistic conservation strategies. Last but not least, several PSPP students from early summer-schools went on to be active in the organisation and running of the later summer-schools, a model that ACCE wishes to use as it evolves.



Work at the Porta Nocera. Credit: Lea Ottinger / PSPP



Surface consolidant trials. Credit: Viola Klein / PSPP

Hiking the Amalfi Coast



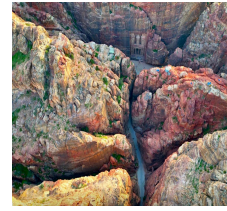
In Maiori we met a grassroots organisation called Hiking the Amalfi Coast. This initiative started only a few years ago when childhood friends who had grown up in the area realised they wanted to give something back. They started their group to promote environmental conservation through community engagement. As well as organising experiential learning hikes that equip locals and tourists with practical skills for environmental preservation, they also actively maintain the trails. This is an important form of climate impact mitigation, reinforcing paths to reduce erosion and landslide risks. They have been able to establish a platform for themselves and leverage stakeholder engagement. On the evening that we met them, they had arranged for a senior member of the local authority to welcome us to Maiori in the town hall.

The next day, we accompanied the group on a 7 hour hike. They explained more about the work they do, which includes educating farmers on the risks of unsustainable land management. Many farmers and landowners struggle to make the traditional lemon tree cultivation work economically for them and use the historic lemon tree terraces for grazing sheep. This severely endangers a delicate balance. As the lemon trees disappear, the terraces become less stable and the risk of landslides increases. Rapid climate change is compounding these effects. This perspective gave a new dimension to the concept of cultural landscape. We began to see this as a paradigm not only for co-creation by humans and nature, but also for codependency. They were cautious about the benefits of UNESCO designation. They felt that the demands of a tourist economy were having - on balance - a detrimental effect, as highlighted by ongoing efforts at regional authority level to build a tunnel from Maiori to Minori.

The group was a model organisation for our emerging academy. Their emphasis on learning by doing - documenting environmental risks, collecting trash, teaching about local heritage while hiking through the UNESCO landscape - was inspirational. All of this was underpinned by a commitment to their local community and to long-term action. We hope that we can support their volunteer work by promoting them within our networks.

Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA)







Arjeet Farajat and Wajed Nawfleh from the Cultural Resource management Directorate of the PDTRA gave a keynote presentation during the opening conference, introducing the organisation and highlighting some of their main challenges and initiatives.

In particular, they discussed the hazards of flash flooding and rock fall, and how climate change is increasing the risk of these impacting conservation efforts. They gave an overview of strategies to combat these hazards, including a rehabilitation of the Nabatean terraces, cisterns and channels to better manage water flow through the site, along with targeted intervention of additional features, such as dams and culverts.

In an interesting parallel with Pompeii, they introduced a project to plant a regional variety of almost 10,000 olive trees in two separate locations. The aim is to reduce surface water and stabilise soil during floods, as well support the local ecosystem and provide shade.



They spoke about the international collaborations and local community activity that can help support such projects. In particular, they highlighted the 'Preserving Legacies' project, a partnership with the Petra National Trust, ICOMOS, the Climate Heritage Network and National Geographic that used stakeholder and community engagement techniques to assess climate risk and resilience. They also emphasised the importance of periodic meetings with the local community to build understanding of what is being done at the site, and what opportunities exist for economic returns.



SELA







Sela is a Jordanian based NGO that specialises in training programmes for local communities to enable sustainable conservation and active, economically productive involvement in cultural heritage management. They were founded in 2015 to build capacity in local communities surrounding Petra, for example in archaeology and stone conservation, but have since expanded to deliver training elsewhere in Jordan.

Their programmes include children's activities, internship opportunities and international workshops. Since 2020, we have been in long-term discussions to develop ACCE workshops to run at Petra. In Italy, a delegation of 12 Sela students and trainers joined us for the opening conference and guided tour in Pompeii.

Later, in Maiori, we were joined for two days by Maria Elena Ronza (President) and Ahmad Salamah Almousah (Vice President). They discussed in depth their holistic community-led approach to heritage management, including some of the future challenges they see. They anticipate more focus on specific environmental risks in addition to heritage conservation. By continuing to empower and build host community capacity, whilst collaborating effectively with government authorities and international research institutions, they believe they can highlight the important role heritage can play in sustainable development and robust communities. One of their notable achievements is the successful involvement of an increasing number of women in fieldwork, and besides active involvement in the practical aspects of heritage conservation they emphasise the importance of using this community-led approach in diversifying and re-framing narratives surrounding heritage and wider society.

A valuable outcome of this exchange was the opportunity to link Sela with Hiking the Amalfi Coast. Both are grass-roots, locally-founded organisations that explore innovative ways of engaging their communities with cultural heritage. We were pleased that they had questions and knowledge to exchange with each other, as well as with us.

World Monuments Fund




Trainee stonemason. Credit: WMF

We had two presentations from World Monuments Fund (WMF) during the Academy. First, Emma Sweeney presented on the Syrian Stonemasonry project as part of our opening symposium. Then, we received an online lecture from Meredith Wiggins about the WMF's approach to 'Working Globally, Thinking Locally'.


Graduates now working as stonemasons. Credit: WMF

The WMF is an NGO dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage sites around the world through fieldwork, advocacy, grantmaking, education, and training. The initiative to provide field-based training in traditional stonemasonry skills to local Jordanians and displaced Syrians in Mafraq, Jordan is one of their recent projects, taking place between 2017 and 2019.

The initiative was developed in response to the conflict in Syria. The aim was to equip people with skills to improve their livelihoods through subsequent employment, and restore their heritage across the region post-conflict. There were two phases: focusing on basic and advanced techniques. The project was funded by the British Council, Cultural Protection Fund. The programme was replicated in Lebanon in 2020-21, training more than 80 people in total.

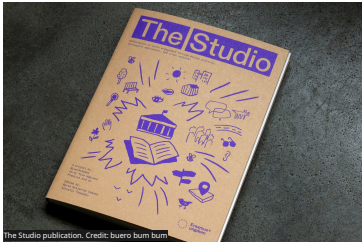
Emma presented her evaluation methods to measure the long-term impact of the project. She found that despite the stated goal for this training, which was to secure employment for participants as stonemasons, job opportunities in both countries were limited. In 2024, six participants remained employed as stonemasons, with nine others in sector-adjacent roles.

However, the program did provide broader improvement to livelihood beyond sector employment. Participants reported increased levels of renumeration, promotion, different employment opportunities, improved access to jobs or further education, and increased confidence of awareness of the world of others. The trainees valued the language skills they developed during the course, as well as soft skills such as increased confidence and communication capabilities; these skills have helped them in future endeavors.

Forty Five Degrees

forty five degrees is a Berlin based studio of architects and designers. One of their principles is a commitment to rethinking education on the built environment through both academia and practice. We were joined by co-founder Alkistis Thomidou during ACCE to learn from some of the innovative and inclusive pedagogic methods approaches that she has used and come across in her work, that prioritize experiential learning and engagement with real-world case studies and environments.

In their practice, space-making is about resources, not only material or financial but the intangible resources of human and more-than-human knowledge. Their work investigates the built environment through research, design, and artistic experimentation across multiple scales, analyzing its physical, social, and economic entanglements.



The Studio publication. Credit: buero bum bum


Model, at Markt der Möglichkeiten [Market of Ideas], 2020. © forty five degrees

Using art and design as a tool to transform our physical surroundings opens new spaces for collaboration and wonder. One of the outcomes of this two-year exploration and exchange between the three studios is the following publication, where we illustrate how to engage youth through diverse examples and methods outside academic frameworks. The Studio explores and gathers a number of activities and reflections that can empower and have a lifelong impact on young people. How do we include and engage young people on their own terms? Throughout the pages of this publication, we share examples that encourage anyone working with youth to create learning contexts that foster possibilities and autonomy, with the aim to inspiring youth and young adults to be critical, discover and reclaim their agency, and take care of their spaces, subjectivities, and networks, as well as cultivating a sense of belonging in their local communities. In this publication readers can find a compendium of examples and reflections on youth engagement in design praxis, ecological approaches, and the revision of urban contexts as an extension of educational frameworks.

The publication can be downloaded for free here:
https://www.forty-five-degrees.com/the-studio/

[redacted]

Education Program in Climate and Conservation (EPICC)





The Education Program in Climate and Conservation (EPICC) started out as a parallel workshop planned during ACCE when it was due to be held in Petra. Tayma'a Abu Ayyash from SheGrows Jordan and Kenta Sayama from the University of Oxford successfully applied for a grant from the UNESCO Youth Action Project in 2023 to run a climate education project at Petra during the planned time frame of the academy. Similarly to one of the key objectives of ACCE, their proposal was to 'train the trainers', focusing on teaching young adults who would then go on to use Petra to teach children about climate change.

The workshop unfolded as a series of engagement activities with a selection of potential future educators. Kenta, Tayma'a and their colleague Kenda helped a cohort of 13 trainers design a curriculum for 12-17 year old children with support from a set of regional stakeholders including staff from the PDTRA and several other local heritage organisations. There was a strong emphasis on knowledge co-production, aiming to incorporate the knowledge of local communities into a long-term pedagogic framework. A key aspect of their project was to integrate the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage designation for 'Cultural space of the Bedu' into their understanding of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, to enhance the understanding of how place-based value frameworks interrelate, and to integrate storytelling skills into climate education that is contextualised for the local setting.

Lessons learned and opportunities for knowledge-exchange

- A formalised operational structure facilitates civil society groups to be involved in management activities of broader scope.
- Diverse heritage and institutional settings might provide the opportunity to locally active stakeholders to derive best practices in spite of their differences.
- Positive dialogue with institutions sustains long-term presence and involvement of civil society groups.

- **Developing Cross-Initiative Training Programs**:

Initiatives like SELA and PSPP could collaborate to create joint training programs that merge academic rigor with practical field experience. These programs can be accredited to provide more credibility and attract wider participation.

- **Integrating Technology for Enhanced Visitor Engagement**:

The Archaeological Park of Pompeii can share its expertise in technology with SELA and Hiking the Amalfi Coast to develop tools for visitor education, immersive experiences, and environmental monitoring.

- **Strengthening Community Engagement**:

Initiatives with strong community involvement, such as SELA and EPICC, can mentor others like Hiking the Amalfi Coast to create activities that foster a sense of ownership among local residents and address social priorities.

- **Promoting Sustainable Practices Across Sites**:

Pompeii's green initiatives and PDTRA's climate-focused strategies can inspire other initiatives to implement eco-friendly practices, such as local resource production, trail conservation, and sustainable tourism.

By identifying opportunities for civil society to participate effectively within institutional frameworks, our goal is to foster long-term conservation practices that are both locally rooted and resilient. This is especially relevant in culturally and environmentally sensitive sites like Pompeii, Petra, and the Amalfi Coast, where conservation challenges are best addressed through community-led, contextually relevant approaches. Our approach is focused on fostering a greater role for non-institutional actors, especially local grassroots groups and civil society representatives, by facilitating constructive interactions between them. We strive in particular for a better understanding of policy and governance frameworks, which is conductive to empowerment, long term involvement, and thus action in community-led heritage conservation and environmental protection.

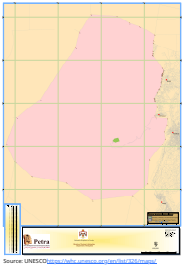
Our work also aims to maximise potential synergies between stakeholders by fostering shared understanding and collaboration. In this view, the opportunity presented by the Academy to work on three sites of very different nature and conservation ethics also enables the activity itself to become a platform through which to exchange best practices and highlight opportunities for knowledge exchange. This may include on the one hand the transfer of operational models across civil society groups, or even regional authorities, while on the other a balanced assessment of the strengths and limitations of formal governance systems, and ultimately the benefits of integrating grassroots perspectives.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Our Academy focused on three UNESCO World Heritage sites: Costiera Amalfitana, Pompeii Archaeological Park, and Petra Archaeological Park. All three sites are designated for their cultural heritage values, but have more or less obvious elements of natural heritage that need to be considered in their management. As we learned through our interactions with institutional and local stakeholders, the cultural and natural aspects of all three sites are linked, sharing risk factors in relation to over-tourism and climate change.

Examining the most recent management plans for all three case studies provides a functional overview of institutional stakeholders and site governing processes. Though much of our work focuses on building community among local organizations and within our multi-disciplinary cohort, we had the opportunity engage directly with managerial officials and learn about the functional hierarchies present when working in conservation, documentation, and research at these sites. What follows are three brief examinations outlining key institutional apparatus for the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, and Petra.

Petra



Source: UNESCO





The 2019 Integrated Management Plan for Petra Archaeological Park was a collaborative effort between the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), and the UNESCO office in Amman.

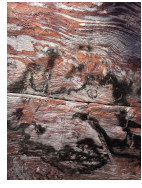
This management plan highlights a participatory approach which includes a diverse range of local and international stakeholders. The park and most of its existing buffer zone is managed by the PDTRA. Petra is a unique case study on a number of levels, including the lack of clearly defined borders to the UNESCO World Heritage site and accompanying buffer zone. As a result, the 2019 management plan took four years to complete following long-term stakeholder engagment efforts. Within PDTRA, the archaeological park itself is managed by the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP). Permission for research, conservation, and preservation efforts is administered by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The Petra National Trust (PNT) is another managerial stakeholder. The PNT is a non-governmental organization which protects and preserves national cultural heritage, though the organization has a strong focus on Petra. According to PNT reports, more than 80% of the local communities surrounding Petra rely on tourism for income and employment opportunities, which speaks to both the depth and breadth of local presence and involvement at Petra as well as the potential risks of relying so heavily on the tourism industry to support and sustain local economies.

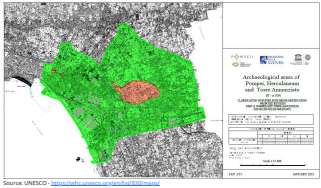
The diversity of governing structures functioning in Petra as well as the close involvement of the parks inhabitants and local community members working in tourism and conservation creates a complicated web of institutional and civil society stakeholders. Different institutional elements focus on economic growth, increasing tourism, and caring for the Park's sustainable development; necessarily, these priorities do not always align.

The 2019 Integrated Management Plan is the first legally endorsed step in evaluating and interpreting the myriad stakeholders invested in Petra on economic, national, and community levels. Future integrated management plans will build upon this institutional structure, ideally continuing to take account for enviornmental, conservation, and sustainable development needs both for the park itself and those who call it home.






Pompeii Archaeological Park



Source: UNESCO - https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/maps/



Source: By CFD47, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14751995

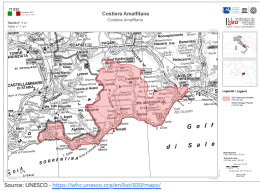
The current Management Plan for the World Heritage site Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata was drafted in 2014 by a working group composed of various departments within the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MIBACT), including the General Secretary, the Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration, the General Direction of Antiquity MIBACT, and the Regional Secretariat for Campania. An update began in January 2023.

The entity is tasked to approve a "strategic plan" for the development of the areas included in the Management Plan. The Managing Committee is formed by the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and of Tourism, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, the Minister for Territorial Cohesion, the President of the Campania region, the President of the Province of Naples (now Metropolitan city of Naples), the Mayors of the municipalities concerned and the legal representatives of the public authorities and private stakeholders involved.

The archaeological areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata are owned by the Italian State and managed directly by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, and the Ministry of Tourism. The institutional task of the Special Superintendency for Pompeii and the Herculaneum Archaeological Park, separated from that of Naples, consists in the protection of the sites and in their conservation and valorisation, carried out through its permanent management.

- **General Manager**
- **Board of Directors**: which determine and plan the research guidelines and technical focuses of the activities
- **Scientific Committee**: which have an advisory function to the General Manager on scientific matters within the framework of the Institute's activities
- **Board of Auditors**: which have a supervisory function.

Costiera Amalfitana



Source: UNESCO - https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/830/maps/



The Management Plan for the UNESCO World Heritage site Costiera Amalfitana was formulated by a working group set up by the European University Center for Cultural Heritage. This drafted preliminary studies and drew up a first draft of the MP in 2019. The proposed governance model envisages:

- **Management Conference:** the political body where all the local and superordinate actors are represented, who meet once or twice yearly to define the vision and strategic objectives.
- **Decision Support Structure:** made up of technicians and experts from local administrations and from outside, which on the one hand elaborates studies and scenarios to support the Management Conference, on the other makes the information available to the system, such as the analysis and the extended cost-benefit studies that allow the various stakeholders to know in advance the effects of the interventions in the project. This operates on a permanent basis.

Following the design of the management plan in 2019, the following entities were identified for fulfilling this role:

- Ente Parco Regionale dei Monti Lattari: covering the whole area protected as a World Heritage site and also areas of the Sorrento coast, then encompassing 27 municipalities of the overall peninsula. It was established on 13th November 2003.
- Comunità Montana Monti Lattari: although the entity covers only 5 of out 15 municipalities, it absorbed most of the responsibilities. The shortcomings in terms of human resources and resulting capacities are covered by technical staff from different municipalities.
- **Supra-municipal Territorial Body**: capable of supporting and coordinating the action of the various stakeholders, as well as implementing, directly or through an ad hoc public-private company, the actions and interventions envisaged in the Plan.
- **Interest Groups**: freely constituted, even on a temporary basis, which play a proactive, independent and possibly consultative role towards Management Conference and Decision Support Structure.

Nar

“Heritage is about today, it's not about what happened in the past. The biggest challenge is how do we incorporate the ideas of the common person? We have to find ways of incorporating their values into our approaches to protect. But we also have to realize that there are some types of heritage that may have nothing to do with the community that is there today.

rat

I think I think the most important thing is how do we include the Other. Because when I say the “Other”, if you include Ndoro, who has been trained in Western academia, I'm not so sure you're including the Other. You are including a disciple rather than the Other.”

Webber Ndoro

ives

We had the privilege to meet a wide variety of individuals during our time in the Academy, from heritage professionals to schoolchildren to international tourists to long-time locals.

We sought out some of these interactions, seeking to learn about histories of place or how residents interpreted the changing climate. Other conversations occurred with sopntenaity, when exploring the landscape or having a meal. Each of these encounters informed our work, our understanding of place, an how we oriented ourselves in these new environments.

This section includes a number of these dialogues. The opening pages discuss the rationale for including certain vingettes and how we chose to approach questions of methodology and research design.

Then, we present nine narratives representative of our time in Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast, interspersed with our own perspectives and how the knowledge gained informs our work with ACCE and beyond.

- The Coffee Shop
- The Barber Shop
- Taking the Bus
- A Sunset from the Ferry
- A Patient and Careful Art
- Rushing in Pompeii
- A School in Torre Annunziata
- Under the Pub Lights

You will note that each of these narratives is accompanied by a song. We encourage you to listen to these tracks while reading the respective page. We hope the songs emphasize the energy and emotion of our words and encourage you to experience these narratives in their multi-sensorial splendor.

STORIES WE SHARE...

The aim of this activity is not really an aim, but more a human exchange led by the curiosity of four people, us (also defined as participant observers in the following pages), interested in listening to the stories of other individuals (also referred to below as participants) experiencing the Amalfi Coast and the city of Pompei in different ways. The broad spectrum of the research activity provided freedom to be innovative and spontaneous in our response.

The data we gathered, however, must as a consequence be considered personal and anecdotal, therefore informative to more specific and focused research in the future. We share with you our recollection of our exchanges with visitors seeing this place with fresh eyes, and with locals who carry a deep, personal bond with the land; each one of them has their personal and intimate connection to the area.


Artist: Willow Langdale-Smith



Our approach was rooted in common humanity; instead of formally recording each interaction, we immersed ourselves in the experience, allowing us to fully sense its nuances.

The conversations unfolded naturally, guided by the participants' own thoughts and emotions. Certain themes came up again and again: the effects of over-tourism, the changes from shifting climates, and the deep love and attachment locals feel for their cultural and natural surroundings.

Rather than striving for specific outcomes, we embraced this activity as an open exchange, prioritising the shared human experience over predetermined conclusions.

Methodological Considerations

While our aim was intentionally broad and open-ended, our methodology was continuously and carefully discussed. From the outset, we defined key elements, such as how we would interact with locals and tourists, the language choices we'd use (and adapt as needed), and our approach to documenting —or, more accurately, choosing not to document— these exchanges.

Dialogue and observation formed the foundation of our work, enabling us to build a genuine connection with the local community and foster engaging, informal interactions with tourists. The following sections consist of our accounts or memories of the interactions. We provide vague characteristics of our participants to contextualise the exchanges while carefully ensuring not to disclose any personal details (name, age, or address) or environmental features with which the reader could identify them.

With regards to our introduction, we decided not to disclose our role, nor our aim (since we don't have a specific one). We approached each conversation organically, avoiding formalities like microphones, notebooks, or cameras, which we felt could create an unnecessary sense of formality or distance. This choice helped keep the environment relaxed, ensuring participants felt free to express themselves. Naturally, our interests and curiosities also influenced the exchanges. We asked questions about topics that we care about, which largely fit the themes of the ACCE 2024. As a team, we also chose to capture a few photos of our group and our interactions—not as documentation for this report, but as spontaneous, personal mementos of the experience. Without formal recording tools, we took time after each conversation to discuss our impressions, noting key points, themes, and insights from each observer's perspective.

Our interactions started with open, spontaneous questions, often inspired by the immediate surroundings or whatever our participants were doing at the time. Initially, we aimed to conduct these conversations in English to include the whole team in real time, but we quickly adapted based on participant preferences, shifting into Italian or Spanish when needed to support a more natural exchange. Each conversation was simultaneously or subsequently translated as needed to keep everyone aligned.

To capture a geographical reference for our conversations, we created a map highlighting key themes and keywords that emerged in each area, giving us a visual record of the experiences and perspectives shared by participants across different locations. This format gave us the chance to visualise and reflect on the many interlinkages between the emerging themes considering not only spatial aspects but the many networks and spaces in which our everyday lives take place.





The Conversations...

Our processes for identifying research participants and establishing dialogues were as open as our overarching approach. In the cities on the Amalfi Coast, we walked along the coast, visited coffee shops, and gazed at the pastel buildings and lemon terraces. After getting a glimpse of the landscape and its many charms, we shared our first impressions and decided to set off to a barber shop.

We hoped to discuss with the people working there while enjoying their services. However, we stopped at a café on the way. We approached the baristas as we paid our bill and used their pastries as an excuse to spark a conversation. Afterwards, we visited the barbershop as some of us wanted to get a haircut and used the opportunity to talk to the hairdressers and fellow customers. The proximity and intimacy between clients and customers in these cosy and welcoming environments facilitated relaxed exchanges about the city, the region, and life in the Amalfi Coast and beyond. Travelling in public transport also enabled us to engage in talks with fellow tourists who openly shared their impressions.





Finding people to talk to in Pompeii is not easy. Visitors are busy exploring the uneven cobbled streets, and trying to see as much as possible during the limited time their visit affords them. They carefully examine their maps to decide where they want to go next and then rush from place to place. They admire the archeological remains, gardens and frescos, or search for fresh spaces to escape from the heat and rest for a second. During our two or three hour long exploration of the site, we only had two brief exchanges with fellow visitors, one facilitated by a shared nationality and the other thanks to the kindness of visitors who helped us find an exit and made suggestions on what to see. We also had an exciting exchange with a group of conservators who shared fascinating facts about working in Pompeii.

The Coffee Shop



The group's original plan was straightforward: kick things off with a first interview at the local barbershop in Maiori. But as plans often do, this one started to evolve the moment we stopped at a nearby café to grab some drinks and sort out the interview structure and strategy.

Our focus shifted from the barbershop to the café itself. After tossing around ideas and hesitating, we took the plunge. We decided to start with the two male baristas, hoping to capture the essence of the café and the town scene through their experiences.

Our initial approach was in English, but when our questions ventured into more nuanced territory, we relied on Solea, our group's Italian speaker, to help with translation. The conversation began with something simple—the pastries. "Where do they come from?" we asked. The barista explained that their treats come from different parts of the region, each baked to reflect its own unique flair.

Curiosity then led us to the café's lemons. It turns out that lemons here aren't just ingredients; they're a local legacy. While big businesses supply most of them, some neighbors still maintain small gardens, stubbornly keeping this bright, tangy piece of tradition alive.

Our café stop had given us more than caffeine—it had given us unexpected stories, small slices of a neighborhood's identity, layered in pastries, lemons, and the quiet pride of those who serve them.





The Barber Shop

♫ Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

We were wandering through the narrow, winding streets of Maiori, searching for the barbershop. I'd almost convinced myself it was closed when an elderly man with some fruit approached us. He began speaking animatedly in Italian, his hands gesturing with warmth and familiarity. Thanks to Solea's skillful translation, we learned he was the barber himself and that he just needed to grab some more fruit from his car across the road before he could let us in.

Once he returned, he unlocked the shop and welcomed us inside. The space was small and cozy. As he prepared his tools, the barber began sharing stories, starting with his beloved dog. Noticing the vibrant artworks lining the walls, we asked about them, and he proudly revealed they were his daughter's creations, her passion as much a fixture in the shop as his own trade.



The haircut itself became almost incidental to the atmosphere he created. Max, David, and Solea sat nearby, absorbed in the easy rhythm of the conversation, while Solea bridged the language gap with her translations. As I settled into the chair, I asked him how long he'd been a barber, expecting maybe a decade or two. He smiled, his eyes gleaming with the pride of a long, fulfilled career, and said he had been at it for over sixty years. His first shop had been near Main Street, but as the town grew busier and traffic congested the area, he had relocated to this quieter spot, preserving a slice of the old town's charm.

Soon, the door chimed, and his son entered—also a barber, embodying the family tradition. He took over, offering David a seat in the adjacent chair.

Though the language barrier meant I couldn't follow every detail, one topic stood out: a "mini-migration" that happens here during high tourist season. The locals, he explained, often rent out their homes to visitors and temporarily relocate to quieter neighboring towns.

When we finally left, we carried with us more than fresh haircuts. We left with stories, a connection, and the unmistakable warmth of a true Italian welcome. This wasn't just a trip to the barbershop—it was a bridge between cultures and a glimpse into a shared life.

Taking the Bus

♬ Bus - Travis

The interaction described in this section corresponds to the observation and participation in an informal conversation held between a local inhabitant of the island of Capri in the Campania region, a German tourist, and the writer of this section. The interaction takes place on a bus ride from Marina Piccola beach to the centre of the island of Capri, at approximately 1:00 PM on a Sunday in October.

The conversation takes place standing in a crowded bus, an uncomfortable situation considering the many curves of the island road, as well as its steepness. The heat and humidity of the day, together with the constant movement of the small bus, produce small moments of complicity among the passengers where small conversations are triggered by a glance or a polite smile.

A man of about 40 years old is holding a stroller with a baby in it. Due to the constant movement of the bus, the man gently bumps into the second participant in the conversation, a man of about 60 years old, who responds in Italian after the bump with polite words, making the first man understand that he should not worry.

From that small interaction, a conversation arises in English between the two men, which I have the opportunity to listen to because I was standing in front of both. The conversation began by discussing how the overpopulation of tourists that the island of Capri directly affects the local population in matters such as transportation. Topics related to the climate and the relationship between good weather and the presence of tourists are also touched upon. Tourists come to the island when there is sun, so, having a large number of sunny days a year, the island of Capri is a constant refuge for those tourists eager for sun and sea.
The German tourist was very surprised by the cleanliness of Capri compared to other cities in southern Italy, a matter that made me reflect on the management of waste in places with extreme tourist density and isolated from the continent, as is the case of the island of Capri.





Unfortunately, the local inhabitant of the island of Capri got off the small bus before I could satisfy my curiosity about the waste on the island. When getting off, he had to deal with at least 10 people who were obstructing his passage. With this, I cannot stop thinking about how many times a day this person must deal with tourists to move freely through his city.

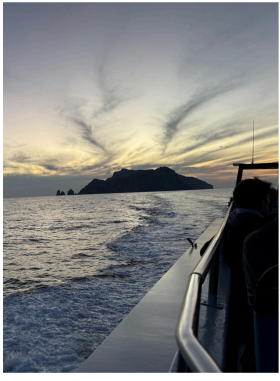
A Sunset from the Ferry

♫ My Heart Will Go On - Celine Dion



We were a group of five who decided to spend a Sunday exploring the island of Capri. To return from our day out, we had to take a ferry from Capri to Amalfi and then change boats, which would take us to Maiori. We departed at 5:00 PM from Capri. When we arrived in Amalfi, the sun had already set, the stars were one by one appearing in a clear sky, and the lights of Amalfi painted the sea and cliffs in yellow.

We decided to sit on the upper deck of the ferry to observe the spectacle of lights offered by the stars and the towns of the Amalfi Coast. It was a bit cold; I could tell because we were the only ones sitting on the upper deck of the ferry that was taking us from Amalfi to Maiori. Since we were the only ones on the upper deck, one of the people who worked on the ferry came up to see how we were. That's where our conversation began.



It started as a casual conversation, we talked about how cold the wind felt up on the ferry, which led to the topic of the seasons. Immediately, the conversation focused on the differences between high and low season and its effect on maritime transport on the Amalfi Coast. During the summer season, the ferry company has a larger number of boats to be able to cope with all the people eager to move by sea on the Amalfi Coast. In October, only one ferry makes the journey, so you can notice the difference in traffic, which is reduced just like for the vehicular routes on land.

The cold and the tasks he had to perform inside the ferry caused our conversation to end, however, this interaction raised future questions about maritime traffic, the pollution generated by ferries, the overpopulation of the Amalfi Coast in high season, and the jobs linked to tourism that are important to local economic development.

A Patient and Careful Art

♫ *Pompeii - Bastille*

After a deeply enriching experience in the Amalfi Coast, we were eager to broaden our interactions within another UNESCO World Heritage Site: Archaeological Areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata. With an open mind and no specific agenda, we wandered through the park of Pompeii, hoping for organic connections with both tourists and the various professionals working there. Initially, we felt the interactions lacked depth; most conversations with tourists were brief and impersonal, as they hurried from one landmark to another, primarily seeking out the most famed bodies, frescoes, and villas of the ancient city.

Adapting our approach, we began exploring similarly, and soon noticed two women laying on the ground, clearly absorbed in their work. Their attire suggested me they might be conservators, as this clothing is commonly worn in Italy in this specific professional field. Though initially hesitant to interrupt their concentration, we approached with a few questions and soon found ourselves in an engaging conversation—this one in Italian.





We learned that one woman was a local, while the other, originally from Sicily, had relocated to Pompei out of professional and personal passion. Both work eight-hour days, five days a week for Ales - Arte Lavoro e Servizi S.p.A., an in-house company of the Italian Ministry of Culture, focused on supporting the conservation and valorisation of Italy's cultural heritage. They shared that tourists' curiosity doesn't bother them and, in fact, they enjoy raising awareness about conservation. However, at times, the indiscipline of tourists in avoiding crossing barriers, particularly in restricted areas, undermined their recent conservation work and created challenging situations.

Our conversation expanded into the specifics of conservation, with the conservators explaining that many materials used in their work are locally sourced, like sand, or specially produced, such as natural hydraulic lime, for restoration. This professional exchange prompted us to share our own backgrounds, and they showed interest in international approaches to conservation, along with the challenges and solutions we've encountered. Finally, they voiced strong appreciation for the insights that come from international experiences and the mutual enrichment they bring to the field.

Rushing in Pompeii

♫ *Pedro - Raffaella Carrà*

Most of our fellow visitors in Pompeii were busy. They admired the wonders of the site while watching their steps in the cobbled streets. Navigating the city among the crowds and under the sun is not easy. After walking along the main streets and visiting the Forum, our hopes to talk with visitors diminished. We decided to head to the exit and grab a snack. We looked confusedly at our map looking for the exit when a friendly couple approached us. A woman and a man, probably in their 50s, smiled and said that there was no exit where we were looking for one. They laughed and told us that they got confused at the same spot. They indicated where the exit was and enthusiastically said that once there we could not miss the Villa Misteri. They told us about the frescos and that the villa was not crowded. We are glad they did, the frescoes were breathtaking.



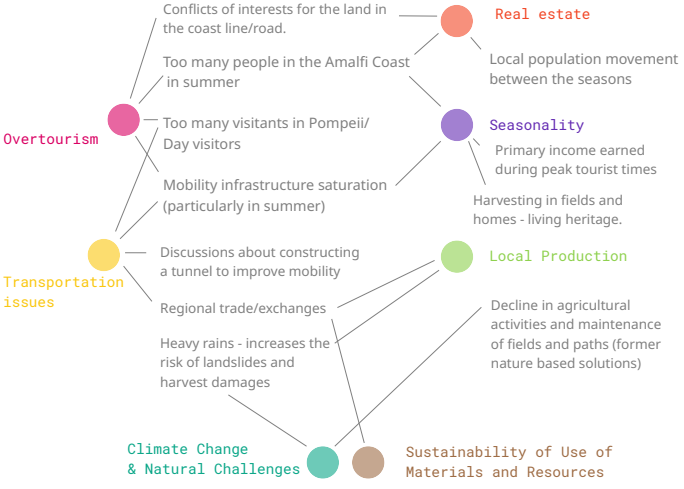
Later that afternoon, we were heading to another exit of the park when David heard Spanish speakers. He recognised their accent. We looked at each other with excitement as he asked if they also were from their home country and asked for directions. The young couple, a man and a woman, perhaps in their 30s, smiled at us and laughed about the coincidence. They told us where to go and that they were in Italy because they attended a wedding. It was the second celebration of a binational couple. They told us about the party in Battipaglia, the drinks, and their trips in the region. Positano was a mixed experience for them.

They found it expensive, had issues with the transport and did not like the “hotspots” with many tourists. Pompeii was another of their short trips. They found it impressive but wondered how crowded and warm it must be in summer. We recommended a visit to the Villa Misteri, following the steps of our friendly guides from earlier. They said it was too far and told us they were going to see the burned bodies as they said goodbye.

The two brief encounters suggest that visitors quickly observe some of the issues discussed in the Academy. They find the site crowded and warm, and wonder how it is during heat and peak tourism periods. People exploring the region briefly share the concerns of the residents. They face transport limitations and the high prices of the touristy areas.

Identifying Concerns and Interests / Emerging Themes

After each conversation, we discussed our impressions about the exchanges. We focused on the themes and ideas that our partners brought up. We wrote notes describing their concerns, the phenomena and features they cared about, and the interconnections between the diverse topics they brought up. We reflected collectively on the conversations and identified topics and concerns relevant to the people we spoke to. In the following sections, we present a compilation of the discussed topics and concerns through a concept map, in which we suggest possible interconnections between the themes, and a geographical map, showing the locations people mentioned. Our outcomes are not a ranking or prioritisation of issues. They are rather a list of emergent topics that could be further explored in the region.



A School in Torre Annunziata

♫ Another Brick in the Wall pt.2 - Pink Floyd

We had the chance to talk to a group of students from Torre Annunziata. A teacher from the school there offered us the possibility to talk with his students, and we were thrilled about the chance, as we had barely spoken to younger people.

Online formats are more challenging than real life when trying to establish connections between people. The first exchanges were short and distant. We could barely hear what they discussed in the room. After they saw our struggles with language and the informal character of the meeting, a few of the students came closer to the microphone and became group speakers.

We asked them about Pompeii. They told us they visit the park once or twice yearly, either with the school or their families, and talked about the qualities of the park. Suddenly, they burst into laughter. Someone mentioned that the park can be boring. It seemed to be an opinion shared by the group, the students nodded and laughed. However, when we asked why it could be boring or what could be better, they decided to change their answer. No, no, it is not boring, they said. I agree with the students. Visiting the site as a teenager, on a warm day, surrounded by a crowd, seeing it for the hundredth time, and without exciting or innovative guides can be boring.

We were also curious about tourism. We wondered if they wanted to pursue a career in the sector since they study languages. They shared that they do not know yet. However, they said that one of them works in a restaurant in Pompei. Their views on tourists are not negative. They like to talk to people from different origins and practice their language skills. They also have places they like to visit in Pompei and do not seem to think there are too many tourists in the city.

We wanted to know more about their relationship with the region, particularly with the Amalfi coast and hiking opportunities. Just a few of the students were interested in hiking, and they usually hike around their locality. The students do not go to the Amalfi coast often and is not easy for them to go there, as the travel costs and the price of services are high. The discussion further highlighted regional inequalities. After reflecting on the beauty and beaches of the Amalfi coast, the students referred to insecurity issues and the heavy pollution of the beaches where they live.

We concluded by asking about the future. Tourism was central in their reflections. The students think it will remain a future career opportunity and potentially grow even more.

Under the Pub Lights:
A perpendicular and parallel experience

♬ Carbonara - Spliff

Nightlife brings people together. It invites conversation, to observe our surroundings with a different light, to dialogue with people who during the day only pass by on the street. This is how we arrived under the light of the pub, seeking in Pompeii a place where we could converse and observe beyond its archaeological site and the exquisite pasta, a place where we could share with its inhabitants, curious about their stories.



The conversation begins by acknowledging what we had already realized: the complexity of the large number of tourists both for the site of Pompeii and for the city itself, that paradox of a city within a city, the archaeological site of Pompeii within Pompeii in 2024. It's so easy to see this intrusion of a crowd eager for a tourist experience that it can even be observed in what we eat (or what we don't eat). A place to eat pasta next to one to eat pizza repeats itself in the same way all along Via Plinio, I don't think it's a coincidence that we find ourselves on a perpendicular street.

As the discussion unfolded, an intriguing point emerged about tourism in Pompeii. One of the most striking observations was the sheer superficiality with which many tourists engage with the site. Our newfound acquaintance noted how visitors, often arriving from Naples by plane or cruise, treat Pompeii as a fleeting stop. These tourists, constrained by the brief windows of their stopovers, devote barely two hours to one of the world's most significant archaeological sites. Subtracting transportation and lunch, the actual time spent wandering the park becomes startlingly minimal, often without any real understanding of its profound history and instead focused on pictures destined for social media. In our days of talking with locals, this 'dark side' of tourism was often softened. This time, perhaps influenced by the contribution of beers or the deeper sense of trust we had established with our new friend, the issue was candidly addressed. There was a refreshing honesty in acknowledging that part of the responsibility lay squarely on the shoulders of the tourists themselves, sidestepping the usual polite concessions.

Overtourism

Seasonality

housing work lifestyle

Real estate

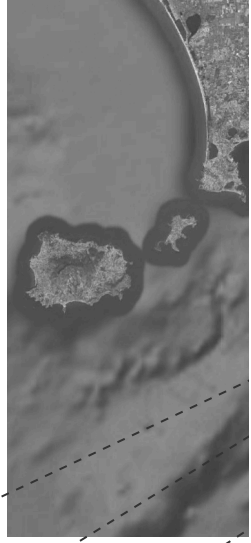
Local Production

oil lemons olives pastry

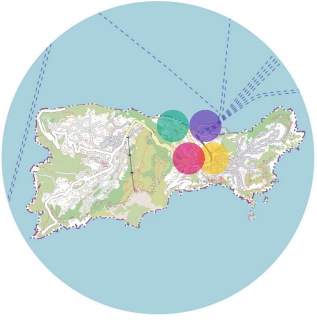
Climate Change
& Natural Challenges

Sustainability of
Use of Materials

Transportation issues

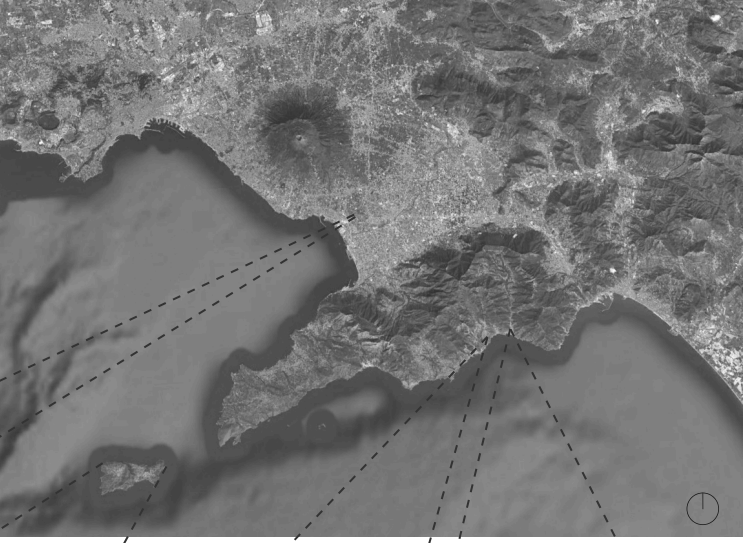




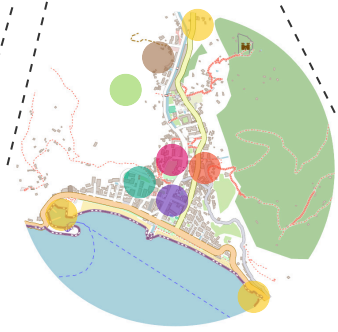


Pompeii
40°45'0"N 14°29'10"E

Capri
40°33'00"N 14°14'00"E







Amalfi
40°38'00"N 14°36'10"E

Maiori
40°38'54"N 14°38'26"E

Practices

"The braid is woven of three strands: scientific knowledge, traditional knowledge, and the knowledge of the plants themselves."
Robin Wall Kimmerer

"Kila jiwe lina historia yake"
{Every stone has its story}
Zanzibar proverb

Another element of our work within ACCE was the study and preservation of natural elements in Pompeii Archaeological Park. We undertook a series of workshops and documentary experiences, learning about the many aspects of caring for and preserving such an extensive and multi-faceted heritage site.

Through these workshops we were encouraged to think critically and creatively: examining the park's flora and fauna as attached to its historic masonry; documenting the park's green life in relation to different elements of its built enviornment; building a risk assessment portfolio for the site with regard to potential vulnerabilities from climate change; taking part in the inaugeral olive harvest and learning how preservation and sustainability can function together; and evaluating the effectivness of sustainable technologies in monitoring and conserving necropolis monuments.

These studies are varied and derive from a range of scientific and archaeological methodlogies, and conducting them in tandem taught us valuable skills while pushing us to question which methods are best suited to a particular need.

- Biodiversity on Historic Masonry
- Risk Management Workshop
- Pompeii Olive Harvest
- Clay Barrier Workshop

Discovering and conducting this diversity of practice helped us grow together as a team, and in our professional experiences. Once again, our myriad backgrounds were a strength as we made suggestions and guided one another in attending to details, taking first attempts, and finding pride in our accomplishments.

BIODIVERSITY ON HISTORIC MASONRY:

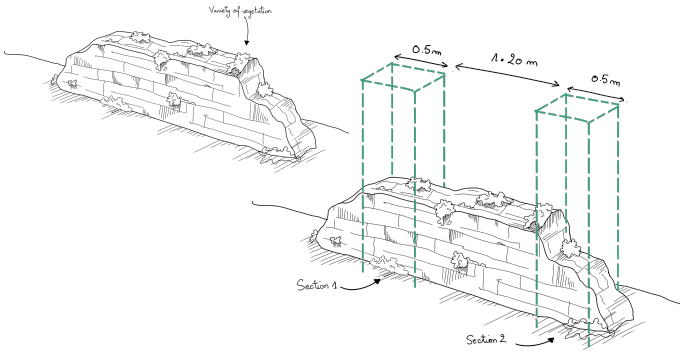
OBJECTIVE AND METHOD:

The biodiversity survey was conducted in the Necropolis di Fondo Pacifico at Pompeii. We had learned from Vincenzo Calvenese's presentation on the plans to green the archaeological park that this area was a key part of the strategy to link green spaces, forming a corridor through the site for the benefit of human comfort and biodiversity protection. Situated near the south-eastern entrance and close, this secluded area is surrounded by dense trees, with a playground and seating area. This provided an ideal environment for exploring a new dimension of biodiversity within the archaeological park.

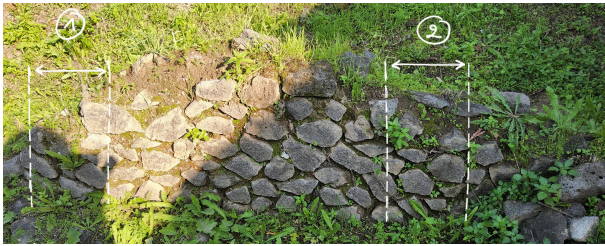
For this study, we developed a rapid methodology for assessing the biodiversity of historic masonry. We surveyed 50 cm-wide sections of selected walls to catalog species of flora and assess their abundance using the DAFOR scale. We left a 1.2-meter interval between sampling sections to systematically evaluate species distribution and frequency across the wall surface. We used freely available Plant-ID apps to identify species.

DAFOR terms & abbreviations:
D: Dominant *(51%-100%)*
A: Abundant *(31% - 50%)*
F: Frequent *(16% - 30%)*
O: Occasional *(6%-15%)*
R: Rare *(1% - 5%)*





WALL A:



4.00 m long South-West facade (in this picture)

Section 1:

	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D
Field photos of the Flora				
Name	*Crepis*	*Liverwort*	*Mercurialis*	*Vicia*
DAFOR scale	***O***	***O***	***O***	***R***

	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H
				
	Daucus	*Picris*	*Lichen*	*Moss*
	O	***F***	***O***	***F***

Section 1 of wall A showcases a moderate diversity of 8 identified species. Some of these species give us interesting insights on the state of the wall. For example, the frequency of moss and occasional presence of liverwort point out areas of consistent humidity and shade, due to water retention in the wall or limited airflow.

Species like Crepis and Mercurialis indicate the presence of sun-hardy plants. The occasional presence of lichen suggests either stable environmental conditions or dry surfaces, as it can grow in both cases. However the frequent moss growth indicates spots with persistent moisture potentially due to shade. This latter species along with liverworts can retain moisture.

Section 2:

	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D
Field photos of the Flora				
Name	*Crepis*	*Liverwort*	*Mercurialis*	*Vicia*
DAFOR scale	***O***	***O***	***O***	***R***

Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I
				
Daucus	*Euphorbia*	*Lichen*	*Moss*	*Astragalus*
F	***O***	***R***	***F***	***R***

Section 2 of wall A also has similar species to section 1 with the addition of two other species; Euphorbia and Astragalus. These two species, even if not abundantly present, suggest slightly sunnier and drier conditions since both species tend to thrive in arid environments. Another proof supporting this, is the increased frequency of Daucus, which indicates better sunlight exposure compared to section 1. However, the consistent frequent presence of Moss highlights areas with high moisture levels / retention. Just like section 1, Moss and Liverworts could cause more moisture retention, along with Euphorbia potentially developing deeper roots.

Conclusion wall A:

Through these observations, we can conclude that there are microenvironmental differences within the same wall as section 1 appears to have slightly more humid conditions due to the presence of moisture-loving species like Moss and Liverwort but also the absence of species like Euphorbia and Astragalus, which leads us to believe that section B is probably better exposed to sunlight, thus, less prone to persistent humidity.

WALL B:



4.50 m long • West facade

Section 3:

	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D
Field photos of the Flora				
Name	*Bryum*	*Cotula australis*	*Catapodium*	*Bromus*
DAFOR scale	***A***	***F***	***F***	***O***

	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H
				
	Anogramma	*Setaria verticillata*	*Lichen*	*Medicks / Medicago Polymorpha*
	R	***R***	***O***	***O***

Section 3 in wall B showcases 8 types of Flora, of which 1 is dominant; *Bryum* is a type of moss that is abundantly present, indicating persistent moisture levels on this wall section. However, the frequency of *Cotula Australis* and *Catapodium*, that are species suggesting tolerance for dry conditions, reflect sun-exposed conditions.

The occasional presence of Lichen indicates stable balance between sun and shade. The interesting thing in this wall section is the occasional presence of herbaceous species like *Bromus* and *Medicago Polymorpha* that thrive in nutrient-rich soils which leads us to believe that there are organic accumulations at the wall crevices, potentially leading to further vegetation growth. This section hosts a mix of species adapted to both moist and dry conditions with some areas being less exposed to the sun.

Section 4:

	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D
Field photos of the Flora				
Name	*Bryum*	*Haplocladium microphyllum*	*Lichen*	*Pogonatherum crinitum*
DAFOR scale	***F***	***O***	***R***	***R***

	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H
				
	Hypochaeris glabra	*Parietaria lusitanica*	*Cotula australis*	*Anogramma*
	R	***O***	***F***	***R***

Section 4 in wall B showcases a diversity of 8 identified species with half of them different from section 3 in the same wall. Insights into the biodiversity of this wall shows humidity levels less dominant than in section 3 of the same wall through the frequent presence of *Bryum* and occasional presence of *Haplocladium Microphillum*. ¨*Parietaria Lusitanica* also thrives in moist microhabitats. The rare presence of *Hypochaeris Glabra* and *Pogonatherum Crinitum*, indicates occasional exposure to sunlight and tolerance for nutrient-poor and drier conditions. Therefore, section 4 appears to be less humid, as indicated by the latter-mentioned species, which suggests that this section may benefit from slightly better drainage or more sunlight exposure than section 3.

Conclusion wall B:

After the brief analyses of present species, we can conclude that spotted variations in both sampled sections in wall B may be attributed to differences in sunlight exposure since main facades are oriented towards West and East. The mix of lichen, moss and herbaceous species reflect the microenvironmental heterogeneity of the wall.

FAUNA:

In addition to the common animals such as birds, cats, rodents and bats that could be found throughout the site, we have noticed, during our walls analysis, the presence of reptiles like small lizards and geckos, inhabiting the crevices of the ruins. We have noticed that these species are usually found in sections that are exposed to warmth and sunlight and where the flora is sparse (see photos below). On the contrary, ruins that have abundant vegetation and higher moisture levels, we noticed that the crevices had various invertebrates; such as the marine gastropods that we found in the analyzed wall B. This distribution highlights the role of environmental conditions, such as exposure to sunlight and humidity, in shaping the microhabitats within archaeological structures.



Reptiles and invertebrates found in Walls A and B



Reptiles and invertebrates found in different parts of the site

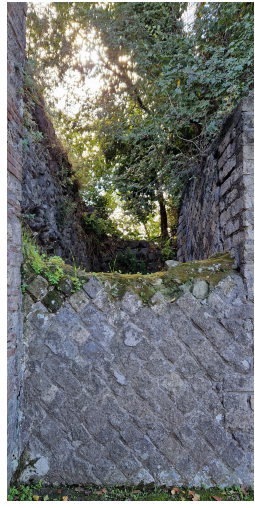
CONCLUSION:

Although very limited in time and scope, the survey highlighted the contribution that historic masonry can make to biodiversity.

We identified at least 10 separate species of flora on both walls, with considerable variation between the walls despite their close proximity. In the case of Wall B, we also recorded notable variation on opposing ends of the wall. This indicates the role historic masonry can play in providing micro-climates and spatial niches.

Furthermore, the types of plant present on the walls can reveal the environmental mechanisms acting upon the masonry. Comparing the flora found in section 1 of Wall A and section 2 of Wall B suggests different moisture and sunlight regimes. This can be useful for assessing condition and ongoing decay. Although the purpose of this survey was not to assess the potential impact of the flora upon the masonry, it is important to mention that some vegetation can cause direct (e.g. mechanical) or indirect (e.g. moisture related) damage; equally some types of vegetation have been shown to be bio-protective. The impact of vegetation upon historic masonry is likely to be highly case-specific. As biodiversity survey protocols such as the one trialed here are finessed, assessments of the relative positive, negative, and neutral impact can be integrated and appropriate flora and/or masonry conservation strategies can be prepared.





RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Backdrop: short time frame, mixed approach

Utilizing the "ICCROM Guide to Risk Management" and the "SiLK - Guidelines for the protection of cultural property: Risk assessment form"

Wider perspective; Cycle of Risk Management introduced and explained through practice; risk defined as "Chance of Loss" rather than ISO 31000:2009 and ISO Guide 73 "effect of uncertainty on objects"; reduced complexity for specific context

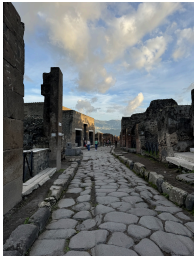
Sitting in the grassy picnic area outside the necropolis, we discussed the categories and definition of terms used on the risk assessment form before breaking into groups and discussing the relevance and ranking of risks to Pompeii Archaeological Park. Each group presented their rankings and reasonings for different risk categories, using examples from our observations and fieldwork onsite. Together we completed the SiLK assessment form and debated our rankings of high- and low-risk activities and natural phenomena in the context of cultural heritage preservation and climate change.

Values of the Object

brainstorming individually and then collecting the information within the group:

·diversity
·soil (fertilised)
·soil cover vary divers
·dragonfly
·patchiness
·air quality
·silence
·full of lizards and ants
·nature and culture I decided to live together
·remaining writings of the names on the buildings
·on the rocks different kinds of plants
·little attention on the gravestones
·tombs
·different scales
·structure
·traces of tools
·difference in materials used
·cobblestone path leading to
·Little tombstones seem less significant
·monumentality
·temporality
·materiality
·functionality
·playground
·whole setting different values in different scales
·monuments in the center and the buffer zone around it
·accessibility
·awareness - not prominent
·watering pipes for the vegetation

Why Risk Assessment?
·Raise situational awareness
·Help with decision-making
·Prioritisation







POMPEII OLIVE HARVEST

One of the highlights of our activities in Pompeii was participation in the annual olive tree harvest. Since 2024, the archaeological park has been using olives grown within the ancient ruins to produce olive oil, “for the first time in 2000 years” as described by the *Olive Oil Times*. This oil was a key resource and major export for the area during Roman times and has continued to be produced by and associated with the region. However, within the ancient city, the olive trees that returned following its excavation were considered at best ornamental. Now the Pompeii authorities see greater potential for this natural capital.

Harvesting the trees to produce oil makes economic sense; which tourist wouldn’t be intrigued by such a unique opportunity? But it also gives a new significance to the archaeological park, breathing life and dynamism into the ruins. There are lessons here for other heritage sites that want to explore integrating nature rather than fencing it off. Even more broadly, there are lessons for sustainable land management, inspired by the practices of old. This was a signature event for our inaugural academy, which underlined many of the themes that are central to ACCE.

A further opportunity became obvious as we met in the Casa Della Nave Europa on the morning of October 29; an olive tree harvest makes for excellent public engagement. As well as our group, several classes of schoolchildren was present, alongside the top brass from the park and the city of Pompeii, in addition to a decent gathering of tourists and locals. Big tables had been set up, stacked with bread and bowls of olive oil for sampling. Reporters for a local newspaper and the archaeological park’s own media team hovered about (although it seems this year the *Olive Oil Times* had a bigger story to cover). The small team of gardeners, led by Maurizio Bartolini, looking slightly bewildered by all the fuss, completed the scene and helped get the harvest underway - once speeches had been made and the proverbial tape was cut. Everyone was welcome to join in, from the Director of Pompeii to young children sitting on their parents' shoulders.

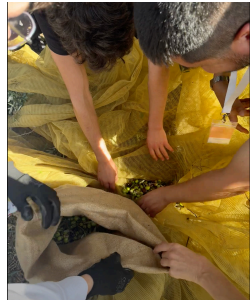












The trees were harvested using traditional methods. Large nets were spread underneath each tree and their branches were struck with long sticks. Ripe olives fell in to the nets. The physical demands called for a collective approach. We took turns striking the branches, pointing out particularly ripe bunches – maybe to a taller neighbour – when taking a break. After the nets were full, we knelt in large circles and tossed the olives into a basket, creating a flurry of green and brown and a satisfyingly soft pitter patter. It was time consuming work as well as strenuous. No doubt there are easier ways to harvest olives, utilizing skilled knowledge and practical exercises, but this felt like a unique experience and there was a real sense of joy. Gradually the olive trees thinned out, and so did the crowd. Towards the end it was only our group alongside the gardeners, working on the fourth or fifth tree of the day.

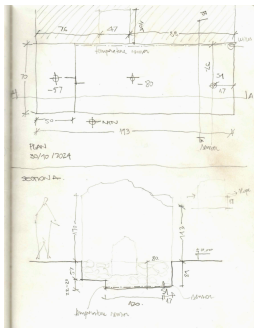
Currently, the oil itself is produced and bottled off site, using modern production lines in nearby factories that can also comply with health regulations. But the park management is keen to explore traditional production methods on site, even if only for small quantities and for tourist demonstration. The initiative is an excellent example of how traditional approaches to managing nature can bring cultural heritage to life.

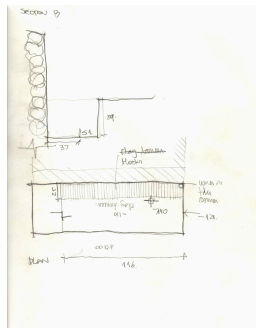
CLAY BARRIER WORKSHOP

The clay barrier project is a long-term conservation research initiative focused on reducing ground moisture intrusion in archaeological masonry using locally sourced, minimally processed geomaterials. Developed within the Pompeii Sustainable Preservation Project (PSPP), which ran from 2014 to 2023, the clay barrier project has undergone a phased evolution of site analysis, material testing, and practical experimentation.

Initial surveys in 2017 identified moisture as a key decay mechanism affecting Tomb 1 D on the Via Nucerina, in Pompeii Archaeological Park. Subsequent investigations determined that a barrier composed of natural clays and pozzolanic sands could mitigate this issue. A calcareous clay from near Salerno and volcanic black sand from Vesuvius were chosen for their combined properties, following material analysis at the Technical University of Munich. Orientation workshops at the Fraunhofer Institute in 2021 and 2022 helped develop protocols for safe installation and monitoring without compromising the archaeological fabric.

In October 2023, during a PSPP summer school, we installed a clay barrier along the north-facing side of Tomb 1D. The barrier covered approximately the bottom metre of the exposed structure and its clay-sand mix was prepared on site. An initial approach using pre-compacted bricks was abandoned due to jointing issues. Instead, the barrier was built up by compacting loose material directly into removable formwork in successive layers. A narrow gap between the clay barrier and the tomb wall was filled with black sand to accommodate surface irregularities. Six moisture sensors were embedded at various heights, both in front of and behind the barrier, and connected to a data logger for long-term environmental monitoring.





Clay Barrier Workshop: Objective and Scope

One year after installation, we held a workshop from 29 to 30 October 2024 to assess the barrier's condition and gather data for calibrating embedded sensors. Organised in conjunction with ongoing research activities in the necropolis, the workshop involved partial excavation of the barrier, physical inspection, non-destructive moisture readings, and sampling for laboratory analysis. The aim was both to determine the barrier's performance in situ and to inform the interpretation of long-term environmental data being collected through the monitoring system.







Methodology

The clay barrier inspection followed a carefully controlled process to ensure minimal disruption to archaeological fabric while enabling effective assessment. All activities were undertaken under archaeological supervision and in alignment with established conservation protocols.

Excavation and Access

- A trench measuring 1.93 m by 0.70 m was excavated adjacent to the north side of Tomb 1D, reusing the 2023 installation trench to avoid disturbing undisturbed contexts.
- Excavation was conducted manually in controlled layers, using shovels and trowels.
- Upon reaching the barrier at approximately 0.81 m depth, a narrower sondage was opened to expose a section of the barrier face for inspection and sampling.

Documentation

- Hand-drawn plans, cross-sections, and longitudinal profiles were created on site to record excavation depths, sensor locations, and trench features.
- Standard archaeological and architectural conventions were used, including alphanumeric codes for sensors and graphic symbols for cables and materials.



Sampling and Repatching

- Three material samples were extracted using a trowel and hand auger, then sealed for laboratory analysis.
- Surface moisture readings were taken using non-invasive meters.
- Sampling holes were refilled with hand-mixed clay mortar (2 parts clay to 1 part sand), applied in compacted layers following the original installation protocol.

Backfilling

- The trench was refilled in 20 cm lifts, each manually compacted to reduce settling.
- Sensors were reinstalled and tested, and the protective tiles and steel framework were reinstated to restore the site.

Initial findings and outlook

The visual inspection of the exposed section of the clay barrier indicated that the installation remains in good condition after one year in situ. The barrier surface was uniformly damp to the touch, with no evidence of surface cracking, salt crystallisation, or structural failure. The surrounding masonry also showed no signs of damage related to moisture entrapment or displacement caused by the barrier.

One unanticipated observation was the presence of mycelium growth at the interface between the clay barrier and the overlying concrete capping tiles. While not currently considered harmful to the barrier or the tomb, this biological activity may point to moisture retention at the top of the barrier and warrants further monitoring.

Sampling revealed differences in material texture and moisture content across the barrier. Material from the rear (facing away from the tomb) appeared drier and more friable than that from the front, suggesting a functional moisture gradient. This supports the hypothesis that the barrier is moderating ground moisture flow.

Looking ahead, laboratory analysis will determine the moisture content of the samples via oven drying. These results will be compared with sensor and climate data to calibrate in-situ readings and assess moisture dynamics. Surface measurements will also be mapped to evaluate how moisture varies across the barrier's depth and face.

It is recommended that the barrier remain in place for continued monitoring over several years. A full excavation and removal in the future will allow for a complete evaluation of its performance, reversibility, and long-term material behaviour.



End Matter

"Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson. You find the present tense, but the past perfect."
David Lowenthal

"واذا كانت الاقدار لا يناسب يا صالح نفسك مصير"
{If destiny does not fit you, fit yourself to destiny.}
Jordanian Proverb

The Academy for Conservation and Care for the Environment 2024

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Report reflections

This report bears witness to our collective and collaborative endeavors as part of the 2024 Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment, a documentation of our work as a community as well as what we accomplished through this program of knowledge exchange and creative methodologies. This report bears witness to the changing landscape of site management, practices, and values across and between the sites of Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, and Petra. One example of this is our particpation in the olive harvest of Pompeii: a new practice linking human and nature, building connections between people and the environment, drawing out deeper meaning between the archaeological ruins, local landscapes, intellectual and culinary provisions. We bear witness to this change, immerse ourselves in it, and document our experiences.

In the previous pages, we elaborated upon the conversations and consternations that led to our conclusions concerning the major themes of overtourism, climate change, cultivation, seasonality, and care for the environment. We considered the conversations shared with tourists and local residents concerning their relationships to place, and how these relationships are affected by international recognition, organizational management, and public attention. These conversations challenged us to reflect on our own positionality and values, evidenced by participants' serious consideration of ethics and preferred methodology throughout these pages.

A core component of ACCE was the exchange of knowledge between heritage and climate professionals of different backgrounds and with different research foci, providing a methodological buffet when choosing how to approach our work. We divided into "groups" to pursue the sections of this report, but found ourselves in constant communication with one another and pausing to ask questions or draw upon the expertise of another participant or project leader. Thus as we divised our projects and defined our research interests in the context of this two-week academy, the methods we decided upon grew from our collaboration and emerged as tools we could not have created ourselves. It was a challenge to synthesize our previous experiences and varied expertise, but challenging existing methodologies and co-creation is one of the purposes of this project, and one that we embraced whole-heartedly.










We chose to spend time in both Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast because of their different environments, and because we hoped the two sites could help contextualize and inform us about how environmental, social, and political challenges manifest with regard to heritage sites and their preservation. Our connection to Petra is woven throughout this report and our time on the project; meeting with Jordanian students and heritage professionals in both Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast as well as digitally connecting with ACCE collaborators currently in Petra ensured that we maintained meaningful link to the Academy's origins and future directions.

Through the course of this comparative work, we gained a vibrant appreciation for these places, and for the people we had the privilege to meet within them. Spending two weeks connecting and engaging with individuals and organizations which care deeply and openly about their communities, heritage, landscapes, and environments taught us valuable lessons that we will carry with us into our future work.

We are grateful to the people who shared their stories, expertise, thoughts, and research with us over the course of this academy. This report, even down to its style and shape, could not have been produced at the start of our work, without these weeks of collaboration and creativity, community-building and collective action. It is also not something we could have produced on our own, without the connections we made with individauls outside of ACCE.

This report is a reflection of what we accomplished during ACCE 2024, but it is also a stepping-stone, a branch between this project as it exists today and this project as we imagine it in the future. Alongside our discussion of care, we have included suggestions for future iterations of this workshop and ideas for upcoming activities in which we can refine and share the work contained in these pages. ACCE 2024 will not end with this report, or with us; we are excited to see how the experiences and understandings we shared throughout this academy go on to shape our future work, both as individuals and through new collaborations born of this project.

Academy of Conservation and **Care**

What are the guiding themes?

29 responses



Kalinga
Care
Responsibility
رعاية
Pangangalaga
Love
Uhifadhi
Effort
Relatedness
Communication
Cuidar
Pagpalahalaga
φροντίδα
Cura
Cuidado
Attenzione
Stewardship
Heart
Mi importa
Can be challenging
رعاية عناية حفظ صون
Deep connection
Ευθύνη
Jamii kushirikiana
Empathy
Investment
Belonging
اهتمام
Kümmern
Tenderness
Considerazione
Chinta fal Dekhbhal
देखभाल
Personal
Response-ability

What does heritage mean to you?

43 responses



What is **care** in your language?

On this page, we associated ***nature***, ***culture***, and ***heritage*** with words in the languages spoken by ACCE participants. This reflects not just a multiplicity of perspectives and understandings, but the importance of innovative and cross-cultural education concerning these themes.

Sanskriti
Tradiciones
herencia
Ciclo
recurso
Mazingira
Φύση
Identity
Kontinuum
Wisdom
Tesoro
regla
Storytelling
Sein
Ricchezza
Ζωή
Fascination
Wir
Building
Creencia
Περιβάλλον
Umanità
Embedded
Κοινά
valor
Historia
Ihr
Γλώσσα
ثقافة
Erbe
Matrice
continuo
emergent and suprising properties
Tourath
Earth
Matrice
Thakafa
Inheritance
Umanità
Purezza
commons
Dharohar
Synergies
Kultura
Tesoro
Kalikasan
Estado primario
Pamana
Sein
Ricchezza
Recurso
تراث
creencia
learning
civilisation
طبيعة
Life
Learned
Turathi
Prakriti
هوية
Urithi
Legado
ciclo
conexión
Purezza
Sie
Vibration



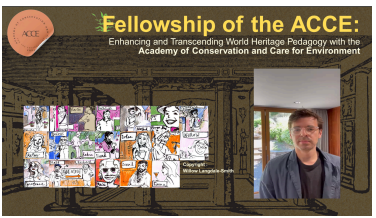
Theme 09: The Transformational Power of Teaching and Learning in Archaeology and Heritage

Session 01: Archaeology Education for a Sustainable Future: Discourses in Inclusive UNESCO World Heritage

Fellowship of the ACCE—Navigating the Pedagogic Dynamics at World Heritage Sites in Italy's Campania Region

Academy of Conservation and Care for Environment (ACCE) is an emerging initiative that allows sites at the intersection of natural and cultural heritage to act as living labs for building capacity on integrated environmental and heritage management. With focus on UNESCO World Heritage, the workshops at these sites are based on knowledge exchange between a range of local and global expertise, with a focus on upskilling young, emerging and early career researchers and professionals from diverse disciplines. As a result, this incubator allows ideas and thoughts to translate into practice and action-based research by curating experiences and activities with a mission towards advancing skills for a sustainable and resilient shared heritage with shared responsibility. This paper will unpack the various layers of pedagogic activities involved in ACCE's first season in Italy's Campania region in October 2024 for understanding heritage environments. It will showcase the various initiatives that were part of the field immersions at the Pompei Archaeology Park and Amalfi Coast. It will explore the tools and methodologies utilised in the sessions that allowed insights on climate action, over tourism and risk preparedness among other themes.





Fellowship of the ACCE: Enhancing and Transcending World Heritage Pedagogy with the Academy of Conservation and Care for Environment

A living lab for exploring and reframing the relationship between natural and cultural environments
- For transdisciplinary knowledge creation and exchange
- To upskill a new generation of researchers and practitioners
- To integrate care for diverse heritage

Inaugural academy at *Pompeii and Amalfi Coast* World Heritage Sites in October 2024, bringing together
- 11 young, emerging and early career academics and professionals
- Representing 9 nationalities and 5 continents
- 7 mid-career specialists in conservation and pedagogy
- And 5 organisations representing good practice in management, engagement and training

Building links across sites at the intersection of natural and cultural heritage
- To learn from each other
- And manifest a new model for World Heritage pedagogy





Project member Suramya Bansal presented at the World Archaeological Conference in Darwin, 23 June.

47th Meeting of the UNESCO
World Heritage Committee:
WHITR-AP Side Event
Paris, France
July 2025

unesco
Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO

WHITRAP
World Heritage Institute of Training and Research
for the Asia and the Pacific Region
under the Auspices of UNESCO

Established in 2022, the "Global World Heritage Education Innovation Award" is one of the most influential awards in world heritage education and innovation. It is a global, interactive and communication platform promoting innovation in heritage education. It advocates and promotes a new model of science and innovation in heritage education for the future, collecting, organizing and spreading global cases of heritage education innovation. It also explores the value of heritage by science, technology and creativity, preparing for the next 50 years of the World Heritage Convention.

Key Criteria of AWHEIC is innovation of concepts，approaches and models of heritage education cases，which can be **divided into 5 sub-criteria based on SCEIT Model**.

●**Embracing Science**: Exploring new methods or models, by innovatively utilizing modern or traditional science and technology, which lead to better exploration, interpretation and dissemination of heritage values.

●**Creativity Inspiring**: Exploring new heritage education ideas or approaches in light of local context by creativity, which expand or strengthen innovative interactions between people and heritage.

●**Empowering Sustainability**: Tap the potential of heritage from different perspectives by innovation, empowering the comprehensively sustainable development of heritage sites.

●**Social Inclusion**: Innovatively promoting the communication and integration of different social groups, which leads to the inclusive development of local communities.

●**Transboundary Cooperation**: Exploring innovative mechanism and models of transboundary cooperation at local, regional or international level, enhancing the synergy of different parties related to heritage.


Certificate

2025 Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases

Star of Discovery

Name: Fellowship of the ACCE - Enhancing and Transcending World Heritage Pedagogy with the Academy of Conservation and Care for Environment (UK)

Applicant: Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford/ Martin Michetie, Kelley Tackett and Suranya Bansal

Is awarded the Star of Discovery of 2025 Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases which was initiated in the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2021, by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITR-AP).

8 July 2025, Paris

ACCE received the Star of Discovery: Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases during the 47th meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage committee, presented by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region. Project members Suramya Bansal, Ghofrane Barhoumi, and Kelley Tackett had the opportunity to give a presentation sharing ACCE's accomplishments during the WHITRAP Side Event on 8 July 2025.





ACCE members had the opportunity to speak about the project with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, as well as Director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre Lazare Eloundou Assomo.









Afterword

From Sites to Systems: ACCE's Role in Climate-Resilient Heritage

The Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment (ACCE) is the applied, field-based arm of Sites at the Intersection of Natural and Cultural Heritage (SXNCH), a global advocacy platform based at the University of Oxford. Together, they form an evolving 'ecosystem' for synchronising knowledge, diversifying participation, and building resilience across mixed heritage sites.

ACCE 2024, held in Pompeii and along the Amalfi Coast, put these ideas into action. Participants explored how environmental, ecological, and cultural aspects of heritage are connected (if not interdependent), using both digital tools and hands-on observation and activities. They worked with local people and organisations to understand how different types of knowledge - from scientific data, material knowledges, and lived experience - can be brought together to support (co-develop) shared goals.

Participation in ACCE extends beyond 'conventional' heritage actors. Local residents, craftspeople, and visitors were not consulted but engaged as co-informants and co-practitioners, helping reframe heritage as a living, relational practice. These dynamics feed back into SXNCH's distributed platform, where shared tools and findings circulate globally while remaining locally rooted.

Resilience here is ecological, social, and grounded in how knowledge is created and shared. ACCE approaches sites as complex systems shaped by climate pressures, cultural practices, and governance challenges. Activities like clay barrier mapping and conversations with local stakeholders helped develop new ways of responding to risk - approaches that can now be shared and adapted through SXNCH in other regions.

This is heritage not as preservation, but as co-collaboration. ACCE and SXNCH together offer a model of care attuned to complexity - one that sustains past legacies, responds to present conditions, and enables future possibilities across dynamic cultural-ecological systems.

This report documents ACCE as a situated instance of a larger transformation in heritage thinking and acting. Together, ACCE and SXNCH offer a model for operationalising systemic change through grounded experimentation. They do so by cultivating a practice in which to *heritage* is to co-compose futures with people, places, and ecologies – through knowledge, participation, and resilience.

As such, this Afterwords marks not an endpoint, but a continuation. We invite readers, institutions, and communities to join the work of synchronising knowledge, diversifying participation, and building resilience - not only across sites, but through the systems we form together.

Afterword

The Academy of Conservation and Care for the Environment 2024 was organised by the University of Bamberg's Centre for Heritage Conservation Studies and Technology and the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics, with support from the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment. The organising team were: Pia Kastenmeier, Ralf Kilian, Martin Michette, Dennis Mitschke and Katrin Wilhelm.

Participants were selected from a shortlist of over 200 applicants invited for interview. Participation was free, flights and accommodation were covered, and other costs were subsidised during the academy. The participants were: Suramya Bansal, Ghofrane Barhoumi, Syrine Ben Nasr, David Cortez, Hoshil Dhanji, Rafael Maximiliano Flores de Leon, Paul John Hernandez, Giacomo Martinis, Solea Sartori, Kelley Reesman Tackett and Suad Talafha.

During the Academy, additional support in teaching and documentation was provided by Richard Grove, Willow Langdale-Smith, Emma Sweeney and Alkistis Thomidou. Copyright for images credited to Willow Langdale-Smith remains with the artist. All photographs herein were taken by particpants unless otherwise credited.

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This report was edited by Kelley Reesman Tackett and Martin Michette and published in limited circulation in July 2025.


ACADEMY OF CONSERVATION AND CARE
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ACCE
2024


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