

Shared Built Heritage and Cultural Routes: Seriality, Connectivity and Global Narratives

Background

In recent decades, heritage has undergone a profound transformation, moving beyond the notion of monumental uniqueness to embrace dynamic, multi-scalar entities that reflect cultural diversity and shared histories. This shift is exemplified by serial inscriptions on the World Heritage List—such as the Vauban fortifications or the Le Corbusier inscriptions spanning several continents—which embody semantic richness and cultural dynamism. These entities naturally integrate a strong value of Shared Heritage, shared both in time and space, and invite us to rethink heritage as a living relationship with the past rather than a static presence.

Alongside this evolution, we have witnessed a growing emphasis on tangible and intangible spatial entities within tourism, territorial development, and heritage management. These entities, which constitute the history of humanity in both material and imaginary dimensions—such as the cities along the Roman Via Aemilia, the Camino de Santiago, or the string of Portuguese fortresses along the African coast—are currently undergoing profound change. Attempts to “add a carat to the diamond” or integrate major entities highlight the interplay between material configurations of space and their intangible counterparts: visual and narrative dimensions shaped by itineraries, routes, and journeys. Heritage today is not only a physical reconfiguration of spaces but also a narrative experience that connects communities through shared stories and cultural routes.

In light of these observations, it is essential to analyse and reflect on these multiple entities, which include singular monuments, linear experiences, and networks that share their history, heritage items, and communities. This involves addressing the multiple approaches to the constitution of a series: the legitimisation of a common character that enriches the heritage register and introduces the sharing of heritage. These new configurations call for a fresh approach to shared built heritage, as well as the creation of thematic paths where serialities—such as colonial expansion routes (Portuguese or Dutch), religious influence routes (Cluniac), and significant cultural routes like the Silk Road, Sahara caravan crossings, or the modern Route 66—find their semantic sense in the sharing of experiences. This perspective opens the way for interdisciplinary dialogue on heritage conservation, cultural exchange, and sustainable development.

This call invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners to contribute original papers exploring the intersections of **shared built heritage** and **cultural routes** as conduits for mutual learning among civilisations.

The theme encourages interdisciplinary dialogue on:

- Heritage conservation
- Travelling history
- Cultural exchange
- Sustainable development

Submissions may address (but are not limited to):

- Theoretical frameworks for serial and shared heritage
- Multi-regional and transnational heritage governance
- Cultural routes as instruments of intercultural dialogue
- Tangible and intangible heritage intersections
- Shared architectural heritage across land and maritime routes
- Global narrative strategies in heritage interpretation
- Digital tools for mapping and promoting heritage

Guidelines:

- **Abstract:** 300 words
- **Full Paper:** 5,000–8,000 words
- **Deadline for Abstracts:** [Insert Date]
- **Notification of Acceptance:** [Insert Date]
- **Full Paper Submission:** [Insert Date]
- **Conference/Publication Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Submission Email/Portal:** [Insert Contact Information]

The proposals must follow the rules of ICOMOS SyC AGA 2026.