

# Summaries of roundtable discussions on Research, Education, and Impact

National Sectorplan Day on Heritage and Identity  
20 September 2024  
Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Dear reader,

This document presents the outcomes of the roundtable discussions held during the first National Sectorplan Conference on Heritage and Identity on 20 September 2024.

The roundtables were moderated by Naomi Oosterman, Ellen Loots, and Izabela Derda (Erasmus University Rotterdam); Stacey Copeland and Shanade Barnabas (University of Groningen); Sean Smith (University of Tilburg), and László Munteán (Radboud University). Below you can find their summarised perspectives, proposed strategies, and considerations on how to approach intra-university collaboration and partnerships with the professional practice on research, education, and impact.

This document is intended to serve as a springboard for the further development of these ideas. As such, **we have opened an online registration form. Please enter your name, contact information, and organisation in the following form:**

<https://forms.gle/stZw8HrtzrvxhhR37> *before 15 November*. If you do so, you agree for your contact details to be shared with all those who registered via the form. This is to develop a dedicated network of Heritage and Identity scholars and professionals in the Dutch context.

Please note that this document is a summary of discussions in the different roundtables and not a conclusive document. By developing this network, we hope to further develop, elaborate, and discuss on collaborative actions that might not have been directly discussed in the roundtables or in this document.

We look forward to fruitful collaborations in the future and hope that this document can serve as an inspiration for the development of sustainable and longitudinal initiatives!

Kind regards,

Naomi Oosterman

Sean Smith

Stacey Copeland

László Munteán

## RESEARCH

The research roundtables were guided by the following questions:

- What are the key topic areas of importance for research on cultural heritage and identity? (for yourself, your institution, the country, or globally)
- What are 1-2 potential collaborative actions, such as grant proposal ideas or pilot projects, that could address one of these topics?
- Is there something you are already working on for which you would be interested in finding partners/collaborators?

### Key topic areas (not exhaustive):

- Digital technology
- Colonial heritage; the colonial past and colonial legacies
- Contested heritage
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and heritage
- Sustainability and environmental heritage
- Climate (change) and landscapes
- Heritage and well-being / health
- Craft
- Rural heritage
- Heritagisation of popular culture and identity

### Collaborative actions:

- Programmatic structures to sector plans:
  - Development of linkages across research domains;
  - Development and organisation of ‘clusters’ between universities; finding agendas in these spaces; e.g., digital heritage, sustainability
  - Develop partnerships based on agendas – include local partners that are also addressing things which are being researched within the sector plan consortiums
  - Align clusters with societal challenges

- Colonial ‘past’ and colonial legacies – how are we including the territories that were/are colonies? (e.g., in the Caribbean)
- Identify national partners for large funding schemes
  - The kind of project calls are not necessarily designed for smaller partners; where there is a real need for impact
  - Need for strategic thinking
  - Currently, NWO large grant proposals are not designed for smaller collaborations; scope is limited
- NWA can also be a way work with societal funders
  - Collaborative, build trust with organizations; Organizations can be big, but also smaller and more local; Identify specific calls
- Tension between bottom up, small scale approaches & the larger funding structures, the Dutch research agenda
  - Risk that there can be a new creation of ‘traditions’ based around the nation
  - Need to present ourselves at the national level

## EDUCATION

The education roundtables were guided by the following questions:

- Where do you see possibilities for intra-university collaborations for educational activities (e.g., minors, visiting lecturers, etc.)
- What educational activities in relation to heritage and identity or broader sectorplan themes are already developed at your organisation; and where could this compliment or support the development of new initiatives?

### Possibilities for intra-university collaboration:

- Development of a National Research School for PhD candidates in heritage (Huizinga for history, RMS for media). Provide educational trajectories for PhD candidates, postgraduate students. One *penvoerder*, working with rotating chairs.
- Executive programmes and education dedicated to leadership in the international heritage sector. Possibility for collaborating with professional partners (e.g., RCE). Themes could be: the heritage of a profession, the heritage of a sector. Sustainability

angle: By looking at the past, learning about the present, working toward the future. There are very costly training programs, in a few cities in Europe, where people learn about heritage and history... immersive experience that managers never had before

- Co-development of courses and intra-university minors.
- Development of dedicated summer schools on Heritage and Identity-related themes
- Increase collaborations between Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences → learning and teaching fundamental skills
- Development of skills labs (e.g., on craft, AI)
- Development of guest lecture series on Heritage and Identity
- Opening existing electives on heritage and identity-related topics to students from other universities

Existing educational activities (selection):

- Erasmus – Delft – Leiden (LDE) joint minor Authenticity and Art Crime: Methods Materials and the Market → Can serve as a blueprint for the development of intra-university minors in Heritage and Identity themes.
- MAGMA 2-year Master program (Managing Art and Cultural Heritage in Global Markets, Erasmus University Rotterdam). Brings together consortium of five European Universities. Can serve as a blueprint for the development of international courses.
- LDE Summer Schools → Cross-border transfer of cultural objects (2021). Centre for Global Heritage and Development.
- Education in museums and heritage → Double degree MA program with consortium partners including the University of Glasgow, the University of Tartu, Radboud University, and the University of Malta (blueprint for potential double-degree programs).

## **IMPACT**

The impact roundtables were guided by the following questions:

- How do you define impact at your institution / in your own experience? How is this impact disseminated? (networks, outreach, etc)

- What types of impact do you think have worked well in your area of expertise and where do you see more opportunities for heritage-related impact?
- What venues of collaboration do you envision with other institutions and how could they be realized?

Definition of “impact”:

- Impact should be depended on what communities need and what they consider to be impact
- Facilitating, moderating, mediating societal discussions in a democratic debate
- Provide a platform for open discussion, be present as academics in those discussions
- Collecting oral histories of citizens – see citizen engagement in knowledge production
- Active citizen contribution

Opportunities for heritage-related impact:

- Investigate the collaboration with larger and smaller societal partners that reach out to a variety of (heritage)stakeholders, such as
  - Museums (exhibitions); Destination Marketing Organisations (heritage sites);
  - Can widen research funding by working with larger organisations
  - Expertise & infrastructure for engaging with citizens
  - Need ways to develop outreach; these institutions have infrastructures in place for this
- Consider ways in which digital technology can facilitate the dissemination of research, via:
  - Public libraries
  - Museums
  - Citizen science
  - City councils
  - Local charities
  - Reach people at home (app at home to tell stories)
  - Public bodies (e.g., ministries)

- It can be challenging to work with heritage institutions that have a monumental reputation, start to focus on working with grassroots initiatives, seek to make impact in these spaces (and vice versa)
- Crucial to identify potential societal partners in research and educational activities

Venues of collaboration:

- Develop a platform where researchers can work with directly with local communities
  - University as a mediator in public debates
- Address the difference in expectations between what funders and communities:
  - Many communities feel alienated from universities, from government; they would not necessarily want the same things that large funding organisations aspire;
  - Some of the large organisations move too slowly
- Impact is often done through popular media and we need to keep communicating through popular media
- Universities should take a leading role in the development of a national discourse on (importance of) heritage and identity
  - Mapping of needs and wishes of communities
  - Researchers under the Sectorplan should regularly write position papers, for example in national/international news outlets