



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

PHD IN SCIENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PRODUCTION

**Call for papers  
2024**

**ITINERARI DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURALE:**  
Salvaguardia, Partecipazione, Sviluppo Sostenibile

**CULTURAL HERITAGE ROUTES:**  
Safeguarding, Participation, Sustainable Development

**27-29 February 2024**

The third international conference of the CHAIN (Cultural Heritage Academic Interdisciplinary Network) invites researchers, governmental institutions and experts from various fields to discuss the theme of cultural heritage 'routes', not just from a geographical point of view, but also from a symbolic one, i.e. as pathways of intersection and exchange between 'routes', aimed at safeguarding, enhancing and sharing tangible and intangible cultural heritage. These paths - in accordance with some fundamental pronouncements of the Council of Europe on human rights, democracy and intercultural exchange - do not necessarily lead to 'physical' places such as archaeological sites, cultural parks, museums, etc., but allow contact with 'hybrid' tangible and intangible cultural expressions; the latter arise from the interaction of transversal elements "from architecture and landscape to religious influences, from gastronomy and intangible heritage to the great masters of European art, music and literature" (cf. [https://www.coe-int/it/web/cultural-routes/about](https://www.coe.int/it/web/cultural-routes/about); Berti E., 2012) and represent a key resource for responsible tourism and sustainable development.

The management of these physical and symbolic itineraries can reveal deep criticalities and produces, at times, 'interrupted', 'limited' or 'unexplored' routes, in which the sense of neglect, abandonment and oblivion could be experienced (Tortora G., 2006; Capuano A. (ed.), 2014; Ercolino M.G., 2006). Research is called upon to find answers to these issues and to produce new knowledge tools that foster good practices of 'heritage education' aimed at creating a deeper community awareness on the issues of preservation, participation, and sustainable development (Cenedella C., Mascheroni S., 2014).

A reflection which considers cultural itineraries as a form of both fruition/consumption and experience (Majdoub W., 2010; Zabbini E., 2012), could offer the opportunity to analyse the proposed topic from an interdisciplinary perspective from an archaeological, art-historical, archival, performative, technological, IT, anthropological, sociological and economic point of view.

Participants to the conference may submit proposals that explore the themes discussed so far by declining them on a theoretical level or through case studies, according to one of the following perspectives of investigation: safeguarding, participation, sustainable development.

With regard to first perspective (Safeguarding), physical and/or symbolic itineraries will be examined, aiming at those realities in which it is possible to reconcile the interest in the defence and conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage (according to the aims expressed by the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage) with enjoyment in terms of accessibility and sustainability.

The second perspective (Participation) takes into consideration cultural itineraries that enhance the active role played by civil society in fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual respect through participatory actions and educational programmes, in which the shared cultural heritage can act as a glue.

Concerning the third perspective (Sustainable development), one should investigate itineraries whose development and maintenance take into account sustainability criteria with transversal and interdisciplinary approaches, non-invasive intervention methodologies and differentiated modes of enjoyment based on the use of new technologies. Also, the difficult balance between costs and benefits arising from the constant increase in the digitisation process of cultural heritage should be considered. Indeed, while on the one hand it allows for greater remote accessibility, on the other hand it could lead to an excessive decontextualisation of the heritage itself or, more generally, an alteration of its original physiognomy.

Contributions exploring the above perspectives will be gladly considered. The meeting will be held in hybrid mode (i.e. in-person at the University of Catania and remotely). Due to the seminar nature of the conference, each speaker will have a maximum of 20 minutes and presentations may be delivered in Italian or English. Time will be devoted to discussion (Q&A) at the end of each session. A keynote lecture will open each of the days of the conference. You can send your abstract (max. 300 words, in Italian or English), by **15th September 2023**, accompanied by a short bio (max. 200 words), along with a short bio to the e-mail address: [info@chain-conference.com](mailto:info@chain-conference.com). Acceptance of the proposals will be communicated by e-mail by **15th October 2023**.

A registration fee is required to attend the conference: **€ 25** for all participants (including groups) and optionally € 25 after the conference as a contribution to the publication of the volume.

Registration procedures for speakers and participants, and the payment of the fees will be communicated after acceptance of the proposals received.

Updates, schedules and information on mobility and accommodation in Catania will be provided by email, on the CHAIN website ([www.chain-conference.com](http://www.chain-conference.com)) and on social channels (Facebook, LinkedIn).

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