

**EDITORIAL**

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Dear readers:

Welcome to issue number 22 of *Intervención*, our second installment of this new era. We hope that you have already had the opportunity to consult or read the previous issue, available, as always, in our Open Journal System (OJS). We also hope that the new design, editorial style, digital tagging and translations, have helped to enrich your experience. We know that any process of change, especially when it involves deep transformation, may require tweaks and adjustments along the way. Therefore, we would very much like to receive your feedback for this new era. You can write to us at [revista\\_intervencion@encrym.edu.mx](mailto:revista_intervencion@encrym.edu.mx), and also send us your comments through our social networks (Facebook: [@IntervencionENCRYM](https://www.facebook.com/IntervencionENCRYM); Twitter: [@IntervencionENCRYM](https://twitter.com/IntervencionENCRYM)).

At the time of writing the editorial page for the previous issue, the country found itself in the early stages of nation-wide lockdown and social distancing, entering an accelerated phase of SARS-COV-2 contagion, and the worst was yet to come. Other countries, on the contrary, were already coming out of quarantine measures and entering a period of relaxation of measures and an apparent “return to normality”, despite the constant insistence that there was no such thing. Now, in the fall, with more than 10 months of pandemic behind us, we realize that we will not in fact return to life as we knew it before, at least not in the short term. The economic crisis, the uncertainty and physical distance have left a negative balance of great proportions that has been felt particularly acutely in the cultural sector. Some museums, cinemas, theaters and archeological sites have already opened, but the public is not yet returning, or at least, not in the quantity or in the manner that they were previously. We cultural managers and professionals are still working to understand the new conditions, expectations and needs of our audiences; a process therefore, of rethinking of ourselves as a sector.

In this context of reflection and radical adjustments, the Fifth Biennial Congress of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To find out more go to <https://achs2020london.com>



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was held in August and September of this year —which would have happened in London but which, for obvious reasons, was held virtually. Migrating the format of such a large scale event (more than 700 presentations, 138 sessions, 1130 participants and 74 countries invited) was not an easy decision for the organizers, but one which paid off: it allowed to move forward with an academic event that had fundamental discussions for our present. Its central theme was “the futures”: of heritage, future *heritages*, future generations and the future of heritage studies.

In the wide range of issues raised at the congress, one stood out: the Anthropocene. Various plenary conferences, panel discussions, lecture sessions and workshops addressed issues such as the environmental crisis, the mass extinction of species, the so-called *toxic heritage* as well as post-humanism and new ways of understanding the relationship between humans and the non-human environment. Topics of great relevance for all those who study heritage were also addressed, such as new research methodologies, digital technologies, public policies, conflict and democratization, migration and creative artistic practice. For a journal such as *Intervención*, it is essential to keep up to date with new trends and open spaces for the postulation of emerging issues and approaches.

While this is happening, in issue number 22 we have a series of contributions that point precisely to reflections on our link as humans with the natural environment. A text by Luis Fernando Guerrero, a recognized specialist in the study of earthen heritage, offers a sustainable proposal for the rehabilitation and conservation not only of buildings but also of traditional constructive technologies of this heritage. Also, Sergio Franco and Yolanda Cruz deliver an investigation on the dyeing of wool in a Mazahua community and the impact that the transformation of the dyeing processes and the introduction of new materials or the disappearance of others have had on it. In both cases, it is possible to weave a conclusion: the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage and that of the environment are two sides of the same coin.

Meanwhile, Lorena López presents a comparative research of international scale (Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, United States, Germany, United Kingdom and France) in which the dynamics around the study, collection and exchange of archaeological objects are analyzed. It addresses the networks of inter-institutional exchange and collaboration of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but also the conflicts and tensions arising from competition to acquire cultural goods turned into commodities. The text reminds

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us of the need and value of understanding museum, heritage and cultural processes from global and integrative perspectives.

As always, this issue of *Intervención* also maintains themes that are already a tradition in this unique space of academic exchange. One of these is the discussion of concepts and theoretical proposals and their applicability, as is the case of the essays by Viridiana Martínez and Blanca María Cárdenas. In them, notions such as *conservation*, *restoration*, *total museology* and *phenomenology* are analyzed from their relation to the daily practice of film libraries and science museums as well as in their historical and local meanings. Cárdenas' text is also associated with another of our journal's favorite topics: the study of audiences and museums. From the third volume of the series of the same name, Gustavo Corral offers us a review in these pages.

Finally, we include, as a memoir for posterity, the presentation of issues 20 and 21 of *Intervención* that Pedro Angeles made during the xxxi Feria Internacional del Libro de Antropología e Historia (FILAH) of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), which took place in a virtual format in late September and early October.

We hope that this issue will be a productive and inspiring read for the closing of this difficult year. In the meantime, we are already working on the next issue, so that we may meet again in the spring-summer of 2021. Our best wishes to all of you.

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