



Relics of Nature

# Project Newsletter

## Fall 2022

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

*What becomes of natural heritage in a changing world? Is it, at present, necessary to rethink the conceptual and material preferences associated with natural heritage landscapes? And what does the mostly taken-for-granted term of “sustainability” really imply in contexts of environmental change? With special focus on the High North, Relics of Nature aims to explore understandings and manifestations of natural heritage, as well as relations between natural and cultural heritage, in the context of a rapidly changing world.*



Photo by Alexa Spiwak

### RoN FIELDWORK IN ICELAND



Póra, Sanne, Kate and Alexa undertook an exploratory fieldwork trip in Iceland from the 16th to the 25th of September. Touring the glaciers of Vatnajökull National Park, the trip was used to discuss methods in landscape analysis, explore synergies between different case studies in the project and create avenues for future collaborative writing. We would like to thank Póra for organising this trip and for being the world's best guide!



Above: Kate, Sanne, Alexa and Póra after hiking up to Snæfell's glacial cap. Right: Póra takes a photo of Fjallsárlón. Both photos by Katherine Burlingame.



## THANK YOU ELISABETH!

It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we announce the departure of our core team member and research coordinator Elisabeth Aslesen, who has been nothing short of instrumental in getting the project up and running. She was truly the do-it-all woman, from arranging events to running our social media and solving IT problems!

Elisabeth will be joining the ERC-funded 'Body-Politics' project at the University of Leicester as a PhD Researcher. Although it won't be the same without her, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours!



## SPRING 2022 WORKSHOP IN OSLO



Members and friends of the project gathered in Oslo at the beginning of June for a productive two days of introductions, presentations and discussions, as well as a guided tour of Kulturhistorisk Museum's new exhibition *Kontroll/Control*.

The Oslo team would like to thank everyone for their attendance and participation—we look forward to seeing you at our next workshop!

Project members and workshop guests enjoying a lovely meal at Cafe Oslo in Litteraturhuset.

## HEI STUDENT CONFERENCE & KULTURARVSDAG 2022

Þóra Pétursdóttir was a presenter at both HEI's International Student Conference (19-21 October) and HEI's annual Kulturarvsdag (Cultural Heritage Day) on 21 October. She gave a brief presentation on the background and vision of the student conference on 19 October. On 21 October, as part of Kulturarvsdag, Þóra gave a lecture titled *Kulturarv og læring—relevans i et bredt perspektiv* ('Cultural heritage and learning—relevance in a broad perspective').

Former project member Elisabeth Aslesen also participated in the International Student Conference with a presentation titled 'Encountering the Body: personhood and iconography in the Scandinavian Iron Age'.

Þóra presenting at HEI's 2022 Kulturarvsdag in Oslo. Photo by Marie Amundsen.



## WELCOME ANASTASIA!



RoN would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Anastasia Bertheussen, who will be stepping in as our new research assistant. She is a recent Masters graduate at the University of Oslo and wrote her thesis on human-environment relations in the Stone Age. She also holds a Master's Certificate in Environmental Humanities and Sciences. Her overall research interests are related to how humans contribute towards landscape change, which makes her a great fit for the project! Welcome, Anastasia!

## EXHIBITION — *Afield*



In the exhibition *Afield*, works offer a distant view and at first glance seem far away. These works, by Diane Borsato, Geoffrey Hendricks and Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir, are gathered with minerals and plastic artifacts that are cared for in natural history and archaeological collections today. Together they constellate references to the sky, geology, land, and push further into themes of land exploration and extraction, classification and human-led change. Here, human and environmental ecologies are unearthed in fieldwork, research and performance that trace our current position in the Anthropocene.

- Excerpt from cloud — mineral — satellite —  
story by Becky Forsythe, curator of *Afield*.



Top: *Atlas of the Heavens* by Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir.

Bottom: *Flowers for Seyðisfjörður* by Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir.

Further information about the exhibition can be found here: [Cloud, mineral, satellite, story: Afield at Skaftfell Center for Visual Art - artzine.is](https://artzine.is/en/field-at-skaftfell-center-for-visual-art)

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

**19-22.05.2022—22nd Cambridge Heritage Symposium** Þóra Pétursdóttir delivered the keynote lecture at the [22nd annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium](https://www.cambridgeheritagesymposium.org/). Her presentation can be viewed on YouTube or at [this link](#).

**10.06.2022—Oslo School of Environmental Humanities Festival** Project member Jamie Lorimer delivered the keynote lecture at this year's OSEH festival. His keynote was titled 'The Probiotic Turn and the Green Rebranding of Cattle in the Anthropocene'.

**13.06.2022—Urnes World Heritage** Katherine was an invited speaker by the National Trust of Norway for a seminar discussing the development of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre at the Urnes Stave Church, including themes of climate change and the role of the natural landscape in cultural heritage sites.

**19-21.08.2022—Maine Apple Camp** Caitlin DeSilvey carried out further research in New England and New York, USA with support from the Relics of Nature project.

**02.09.2022—EAA 28th Annual Meeting, Budapest** Alexa Spiwak presented as part of a session on social archaeologies of industry. Her presentation was titled 'Chasing the Red Dragon: Archaeological and Historical Traces of Welsh Quarrymen in Newfoundland'.

**06-06.09.2022—PhD course: Ecologising History: Loss, Memory and Landscape Temporalities** Þóra Pétursdóttir was an instructor and Sanne Bech Holmgaard was an attendee as part of this course in Finnmark.

**21.10.2022—Archaeology-Heritage-Art Network** Caitlin DeSilvey participated as part of the 2022 programme for the Archaeology-Heritage-Art Network, presented by the Slade School of Fine Art and University College London. Her presentation was a public workshop titled 'Feral Heritage + Critical Memoir'.

**25-26.10.2022—Ambivalent Heritage Workshop** Alexa presented a piece titled 'Renegade care: conservation and co-curation in clandestine places' as a part of a workshop organised by the Smokestack Memories project at the University of Oulu, Finland.

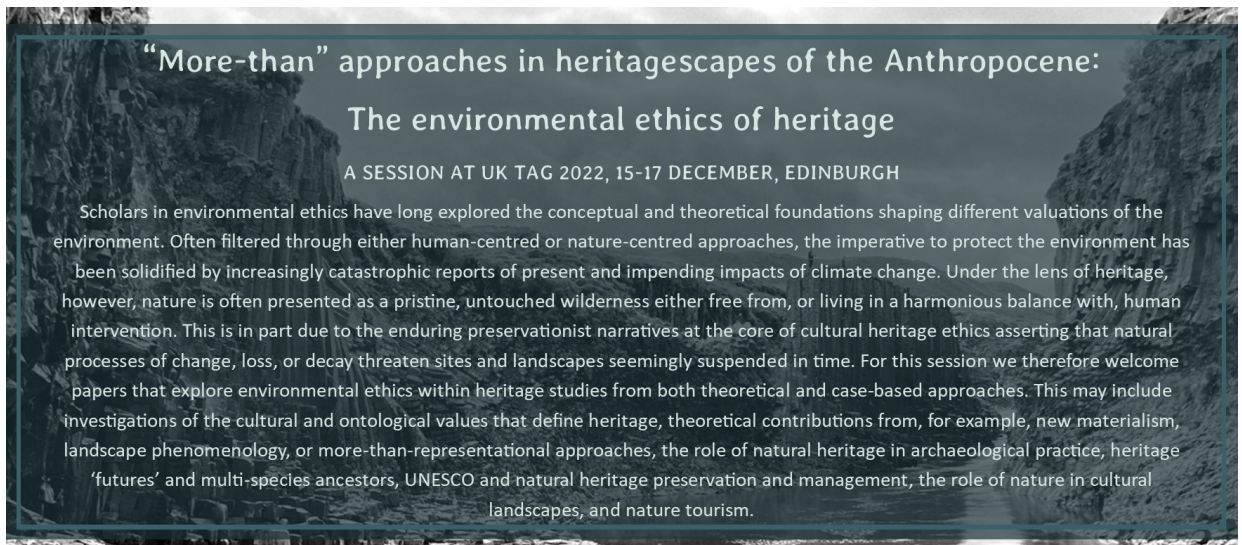
## UPCOMING EVENTS, COURSES AND FIELDWORK

**05-07.12.2022—The Long Durée of Cultural Heritage: Curation of the Past** Þóra will be speaking at the conference taking place at the Norwegian Institute in Rome. Her presentation is titled ‘Prolepsis: narrating deep time through heritage landscapes’. More information can be found here: [The Longue Durée of Cultural Heritage. Curation of the Past - Det norske institutt i Roma \(uio.no\)](https://www.uio.no/durée/)

**Wednesday Webinars** Relics of Nature will begin hosting regular online meetings on Wednesdays from 15:00 to 17:00 CEST. Dates, presenters and a permanent Zoom link will be circulated to those on the RoN listserv.

## FIRST WEDNESDAY WEBINAR—NOVEMBER 9

Our first Wednesday Webinar will take place on November 9th at 15:00 CEST with a presentation from Markus Fjellström, a postdoctoral researcher affiliated with Oulu University, Finland, the Archaeological Research Laboratory, Stockholm University and Silvermuseet/INSARC, Arjeplog .



**“More-than” approaches in heritagescapes of the Anthropocene:  
The environmental ethics of heritage**

A SESSION AT UK TAG 2022, 15-17 DECEMBER, EDINBURGH

Scholars in environmental ethics have long explored the conceptual and theoretical foundations shaping different valuations of the environment. Often filtered through either human-centred or nature-centred approaches, the imperative to protect the environment has been solidified by increasingly catastrophic reports of present and impending impacts of climate change. Under the lens of heritage, however, nature is often presented as a pristine, untouched wilderness either free from, or living in a harmonious balance with, human intervention. This is in part due to the enduring preservationist narratives at the core of cultural heritage ethics asserting that natural processes of change, loss, or decay threaten sites and landscapes seemingly suspended in time. For this session we therefore welcome papers that explore environmental ethics within heritage studies from both theoretical and case-based approaches. This may include investigations of the cultural and ontological values that define heritage, theoretical contributions from, for example, new materialism, landscape phenomenology, or more-than-representational approaches, the role of natural heritage in archaeological practice, heritage ‘futures’ and multi-species ancestors, UNESCO and natural heritage preservation and management, the role of nature in cultural landscapes, and nature tourism.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bjærke, M.R. and Kverndokk, K. (2022) *Fremtiden er nå: Klimaendringenes tider*. Oslo: Scandinavian Academic Press.

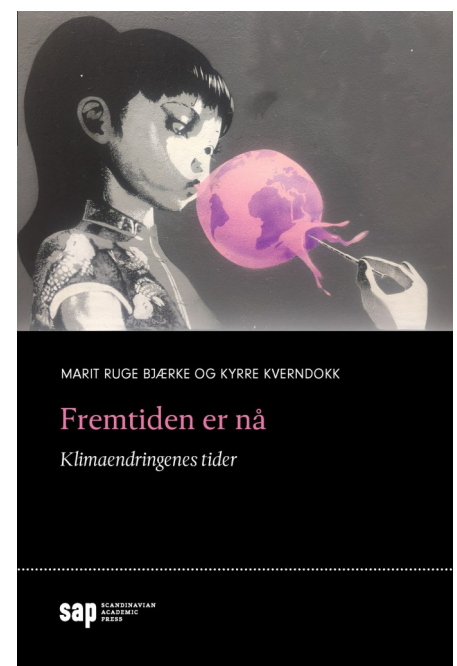
Burlingame, K. (2022). ‘Heritage Ecologies’ (book review). *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. 28(6), pp. 783–784. doi: [10.1080/13527258.2022.2068642](https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2022.2068642)

Burlingame, K. (Forthcoming). ‘High Tech or High Touch? Heritage Encounters and the Power of Presence.’ *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/13527258.2022.2138504.

Burlingame, K. and Burlingame, P. (2022). ‘[A heritagescape in the mountains: when a tornado came to Kinzua](#)’, in Pettenati, G. (ed.) *Landscape as heritage: critical perspectives*. London: Routledge, pp. 255–266.

Burlingame, K. and Papmehl-Dufay, L. (2022). ‘[From excavation to storytelling: Perspectives from archaeological heritagescapes in Sweden](#).’ *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*. 37(1), pp. 50–70.

DeSilvey, C. (2022) ‘Becoming Apple’, in Rouleau, C. (ed.) *Woven in Vegetal Fabric: On Plant Becomings*. Luxembourg: Casino Luxembourg





## PROJECT MEMBERS

### **Póra Pétursdóttir**

Póra Pétursdóttir is Associate Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History at the [University of Oslo](https://www.uio.no). She is the PI of Relics of Nature.

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### **Jamie Lorimer**

Jamie Lorimer is Professor of Environmental Geography in the School of Geography and the Environment at the [University of Oxford](https://www.ouce.ox.ac.uk). Contact: [jamie.lorimer@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jamie.lorimer@ouce.ox.ac.uk)



### **Emma Waterton**

Emma Waterton is a Leverhulme International Professor in the Department of Archaeology, where she directs the *Heritage for Global Challenges Research Centre*.

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### **Kyrre Kverndokk**

Kyrre Kverndokk is Professor of Cultural Studies at the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, at the [University of Bergen](https://www.uib.no), Norway.

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### **Caitlin DeSilvey**

Caitlin DeSilvey is Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Exeter's Cornwall campus, where she is Associate Director for Transdisciplinary Research in the [Environment and Sustainability Institute](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/sustainability).

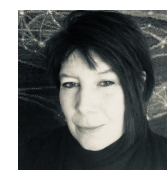
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### **Christina Fredengren**

Christina Fredengren is Associate professor/researcher at the Archaeological Research Laboratory, Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies at [Stockholm University](https://www.su.se) and head of research at the National Historical Museums in Sweden.

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### **Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir**

Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir is an Icelandic artist based in Reykjavík. Her practice considers ideas and definitions of time, place and the systems we use to understand the natural world as it meets, overlaps and is interpreted within human environments.

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### **Alexa Spiwak**

Alexa Spiwak is a PhD fellow at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History at the University of Oslo.

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### **Sanne Bech Holmgaard**

Sanne Bech Holmgaard is a Ph.D. fellow for the Relics of Nature project at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation, and History at the University of Oslo.

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### **Katherine Burlingame**

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More information can be found on the project's website  
[www.relicsofnature.com](http://www.relicsofnature.com)



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