

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 Katherine Burlingame

UK TAG 2022 SESSION



Photo by Katherine Burlingame. TAG participants.

On December 15th the Relics of Nature team hosted a session at Edinburgh TAG titled “More-than” approaches in heritagescapes of the Anthropocene: The environmental ethics of heritage. Due to the ongoing rail strikes across the UK, we held a hybrid session with several presenters joining us on zoom. We covered a wide range of interesting questions exploring environmental ethics within heritage studies from both theoretical and case-based approaches. Presentations included investigations of the cultural and ontological values that define heritage, the role of natural heritage in archaeological practice, heritage ‘futures’ and multi-species research, UNESCO and natural heritage preservation and management, the role of nature in cultural landscapes, an array of creative methodologies, and theoretical contributions including new materialist, phenomenological, and more-than-representational approaches. Thank you to all presenters, to Emma Waterton for a brilliant discussion, and to the 50+ participants who joined us in Edinburgh. The presentation abstracts can be downloaded following this link: [tag-2022-abstract-book.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://wordpress.com/tag-2022-abstract-book.pdf) .

FIELD WORK

Relics member Alexa Spiwak spent two weeks in Northwest Wales on fieldwork, this time focusing on underground slate mining and the use of these liminal heritage spaces by tourists and trespassers alike.

Other fieldwork included interviews with residents of the area, conversations with tour guides, and informal interviews with visitors in the mines. Alexa also spent time following up on her previous fieldwork surveying invasive plant species within the landscape.



Artifacts found by visitors arranged on shelves outside of the caban (messhouse) deep in Cwm Orthin/Oakeley slate mine, Tanygrisiau, Wales. Photo by: Alexa Spiwak.



Climbers can be seen in the distance scaling a slate wall at Dinorwic quarry. Photo by: Alexa Spiwak.



A large *Rhododendron ponticum* bush grows happily in the shelter of a wheelpit at Votty/Bowydd quarry. Photo by: Alexa Spiwak.

HEI KULTURARVSDAG 2023

The annual HEI Cultural Heritage Day was arranged at UiO on 17 March. Þóra Pétursdóttir started the day with a brief presentation of HEIs aims and achievements during the last year.

RoNs research assistant, Anastasia Bertheussen, presented RoN research through a project poster stand and a selection of publications from some of our members.



Photo by Marie Amundsen

LONGUE DURÉE PERSPECTIVES IN THE ANTHROPOCENE



Photo by Katherine Burlingame

In November our postdoctoral researcher Katherine Burlingame traveled to Aarhus University's Moesgaard Campus in Denmark as a guest lecturer on the PhD course "Longue durée perspectives in the Anthropocene" organized by Mette Lovschal and Mark Houghton from the ERC-funded Anthropogenic Heathlands (ANTHEA) project.

Katherine spoke about how the Relics of Nature project connects to ideas of deep time, natural heritage landscapes of the Anthropocene, and alternate forms of researching the impacts of climate change.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

03.02.2023 — Human-environment relationships in prehistory - An analysis of a sediment core from South Mesna lake Our research assistant Anastasia Bertheussen held a presentation about her master's thesis at the University of Oslo.

14.02.2023 — Presentation of the project Katherine Burlingame presented «Relics of Nature» for the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History at the University of Oslo.

15.02.2023 — Is the winter we remember gone forever? Is the winter as we remember it gone forever? Þóra Pétursdóttir was among panelists discussing winter as heritage and how the loss of snow and ice may affect Norwegian and northern identity. The panel was organised by the Department of Social Anthropology, UiO <https://www.uio.no/om/aktuelt/arrangementer/domus-bibliotheca/arrangementer/2023/vinterens-betydning.html>

Week 12 — Project members Sanne and Katherine met in Tromsø to plan their collaborative summer fieldwork in the high north. Their trip also included visits to Polaria and the Polar Museum to study climate change dissemination



Photo by Anastasia Bertheussen

RELICS OF NATURE'S WEBINAR SERIES



WEBINAR SERIES

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WEDNESDAYS AT 15:00 - 17:00 UCT+1(+2)

CONTACT: ANASTBE@UIO.NO FOR ZOOM-LINK AND INFORMATION

25.01.23	RESEARCH POTENTIALS CONNECTED TO SVALBARD CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT	LISE LOKTU
15.02.23	NARRATIVE WORKSHOPS AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN GALAPAGOS: LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON MARINE PLASTIC LITTER	ESTELLE PRAET
22.02.23	"ANCESTORS ARE NOT GHOSTS": WHY PRACTICING CULTURAL SAFETY IS VITAL TO DOING CRITICAL HERITAGE	TANJA HOFFMAN
15.03.23	NUCLEAR NATURES	MARKO MARILA
22.03.23	FUNGAL PASTS, SOIL FUTURES - A PROJECT- INTRO DISCUSSION	ANATOLIJS VENOVCEVS
29.03.23	WHEN SHEEP MAKE PEOPLE	MARK HAUGHTON
03.05.23	ROCS: INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON HUMAN- ENVIRONMENTS	ARNDÍS BERGSDÓTTIR
10.05.23	THOUGHTS ON ECOTONES AND HERITAGE	DACIA VIEJO-ROSE

Relics of Nature's webinar series has continued this semester with many exciting and interesting presentations. The presentations have been followed by intriguing, discussions, and reflections. Send an email to anastbe@uio.no to receive a zoom-link.

UPCOMING EVENTS, COURSES AND FIELDWORK

7th—9th June: Relics of Nature workshop in Reykjavik, Iceland — This time the annual project workshop will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland. This is the second project workshop of RoN, where we assemble project members for a few days of discussions, sharing news from research, and excursions. Iceland is, for many reasons, close to RoNs heart, and the initial project idea is partly formed in dialogue with the island's dynamic icy and volcanic landscapes. We really look forward to the workshops and to exploring familiar and unfamiliar places with colleagues and friends.

Planned exhibition at the National Museum of Iceland — Project members Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir and Þóra Pétursdóttir are excited to have started work on a new museum exhibition in collaboration with the National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavik. The exhibition's working title is "Future Fragments" and it will, through an artistic research approach, explore archaeologies of the present and future, through museum objects, material gathered by Þorgerður and Þóra, and artworks created by Þorgerður. The exhibition is planned to open on June 1st 2024.

18th April — Alexa Spiwak is giving a lecture for 2nd year students in a class on Contemporary Archaeology, organised by Tim Flohr Sørensen at Copenhagen University. Her lecture will focus on the understanding and management of Anthropocene landscapes.

21st April, 2:15pm—Saxo Archaeology Research Seminar Series Spring 2023 — Alexa Spiwak will be presenting *Out of Sight—Subterranean Heritage in Northwest Wales* at the University of Copenhagen. Many of the hills in Northwest Wales are hollow, quarried out after more than two centuries of intensive slate mining. Since the industry's death in the 1970s, dozens of mines have been left open to the surface, their auxiliary buildings left to ruin. These underground worlds exist in a state of limbo: neither tourist destination nor forbidden ground, inscribed as world heritage but left largely without formal care. In the "fruitful darkness" of liminality (Turner 1967), communities of explorers, caretakers, and vandals have made these spaces their own, curating collections of artifacts, undertaking conservation treatments, and leaving their own names on the walls next to those of past quarrymen. This lecture presents preliminary results from interdisciplinary fieldwork undertaken in the slatamines of Gwynedd County, Wales, with the aim of bringing stories – both past and present – of underground slate quarries out of the darkness and into the light.

23rd-26th May Masterclass and keynote lecture at the University of Leicester — Þóra Pétursdóttir is participating in a Masterclass and giving a keynote lecture at the University of Leicester, UK. The event is organised by the research group on Material Culture at the Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester.



Sometimes the best setting for planning fieldwork is during a ski excursion into the mountains

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Gås og Gourmet*. Edited by Kirsti Blom, Espen Ramnstedt, Jo Jorem Aarseth, Ove Martin Gundersen, Sanne Bech Holmgaard, Ingunn M. Tombre, og Lark Erik Vesterdal. Orkana Forlag , 2022.
- Betydningen av laks. Eksempler fra Namsenfjorden og Namsenvassdraget. Stine Rybråten, Anders Hesjedal og Sanne Bech Holmgaard. NINA rapport, 2023.
- *Felt 8 Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino. Sakkyndig utredning for Finnmarkskommisjonen*. Steinar Pedersen, Anders Hesjedal, Sanne Bech Holmgaard, Elisabeth Librekt Olsen, Hans Tømmervik, Hansen Håvald, Einar Eythórsson, Alma Elizabeth Thuestad.
- Combining Remote Sensing Approaches for Detecting Marks of Archaeological and Demolished Constructions in Cahokia's Grand Plaza, Southwestern Illinois. Israa Kadhim, Fanar M. Abed, Justin M. Vilbig, Vasit Sagan and Caitlin DeSilvey. *Remote sensing*, 15(4), 2023.
- SAMLA: Nå digitaliserer vi norske tradisjonsarkiver. Kyrre Kverndokk. *Folkeminner, tidsskrift for norsk Norsk folkeminnelag*, 44-56, 2022.
- Sjanger. Anne Eriksen og Kyrre Kverndokk. *Tidsskrift for kulturforskning*, 3-13, 2022.
- When you wish upon a (GWP) star: Environmental governance and the reflexive performativity of global warming metrics. George Gusworth, Jeremy Brice, Jamie Lorimer and Tara Garnett. *Social Studies of Science*, 53(1), 3-28. 2023.
- Vegan food geographies and the rise of Big Veganism. Alexandra E. Sexton, Tara Garnett and Jamie Lorimer. *Progress in Human Geography*, 46(2), 605-628. 2022.
- Anthropause environmentalisms: Noticing natures with the Self-Isolating Bird Club. Jonathon Turnbull, Adam Searle and Jamie Lorimer. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 00, 1-17. 2022.
- Green rebranding: Regenerative agriculture, future-pasts, and the naturalisation of livestock. George Cusworht, Jamie Lorimer, Jeremy Brice and Tara Garnett. *Transactions of the Institut of British Geographers*, 47, 1009-1027. 2022.
- Exploring the relationships between heritage tourism, sustainable community development and host communities' health and wellbeing: A systematic review. Emma Louise Waterton, Hayley Anne Saul, Cristy Brooks and Andre Renzaho. *PLoS ONE*. (Forthcoming).
- Thinking and writing with care. Emma Waterton, Vanesa Castán Broto, Graham Fairclough, Karen Jones, Laura Alice Watt. *Landscape Research*, 47(1), 1-9. 2022.
- Worlding Waters with the Dead. Christina Fredengren. *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 55(2), 140-158. 2022.
- Archaeological Encounters: Ethics and Aesthetics under the Mark of the Anthropocene. Þóra Pétursdóttir and Tim Flohr Sørensen. *Archaeological Dialogues*, 2023.
- Drift. Þóra Pétursdóttir. In: Contemporary Philosophy for Maritiem Archaeology. Flat Ontologies, Oceanic Thought and the Anthropocene, edited by Sara A. Rich and Peter B. Campbell. Sidestone Press, 2023
- High Tech or High Touch? Heritage Encounters and the Power of Presence. Katherine Burlingame. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2022.



The book «Gås og Gourmet» where Ph.D fellow Sanne Bech Holmgaard is one of the editors .

Þóra Pétursdóttir

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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](#).

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Christina Fredengren

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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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