

ISCSBH Newsletter n.6 (2024- 2026) – July 2025



Dear colleagues and friends,

This second ISCSBH newsletter of 2025 follows on from the successful webinar that our emerging professionals organised on 25 June. This important conference made us realise how vulnerable and endangered heritage is.

Following an introduction to the *modus operandi* and motto of ICOMOS' biennial programme, 'Resilience, Resistance and Response', presented by ADCOM president Dr Kerime Danis, we learned about the various situations affecting built heritage in different societies, regardless of their geographical location.

The key takeaways are the importance of considering nature or the environment as an active player in heritage management and of not neglecting it. In this regard, Mariana Pereira presented a case study of the Pearl River Delta on the southeast coast of China, where successive landfills have permanently disrupted environmental conditions.

Ghoufrane Bioud then spoke to us about Sétif in Algeria, proposing the recovery of built heritage through adaptive reuse, as practised in countless situations.

Everywhere, attacks on heritage continue. In Brazil, the population of Ouro Preto in the state of Minas Gerais is protesting against the Brazilian government's plans to drill into hills where mining once took place. This would destroy caves and water mines — heritage assets that are meaningful to the local people and that contribute to their sense of belonging. We support the appeal made to us by Professor Barbara and her student, Vinicius Simedo.

On a more dramatic note, we heard about shared heritage in danger in areas of armed conflict, such as Gaza, where people are risking their lives to preserve heritage with a history spanning centuries. This is an exemplary effort, and we hear from two young professionals Hamdoua Aldohdar and Mahmoud Balawi, who are working on the ground every day, risking their lives. I would like to thank both and Professor Akram Lilja for introducing us to this shocking reality.

I would also like to thank Mohamed Fareed, the ISCSBH representative for emerging professionals, for his contribution to organising this online conference. I would also like to thank the young professionals who participated — their contributions were excellent. Thanks also to everyone who attended and whose questions took the debate further.

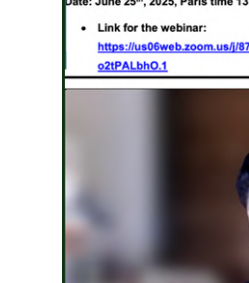
In light of the significance of the webinar held on 25 June 2025, this newsletter is devoted to the presentations that were delivered during the conference and the questions that were raised.

For some of us, this month marks the start of a break from work. May it also be a time for reflection, and may our contributions to heritage protection be widely recognised.

The great ICOMOS Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium, which will take place in Lumumbi, Nepal from 13–19 October 2025, will provide the ideal atmosphere for such reflection, so let us continue.

I wish you all a good summer.

Yours sincerely,



Maria José de Freitas
President ICOMOS ISCSBH

In the meantime you can watch and review what was discussed in this remarkable webinar again through the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/CvGowXWCwdt18>

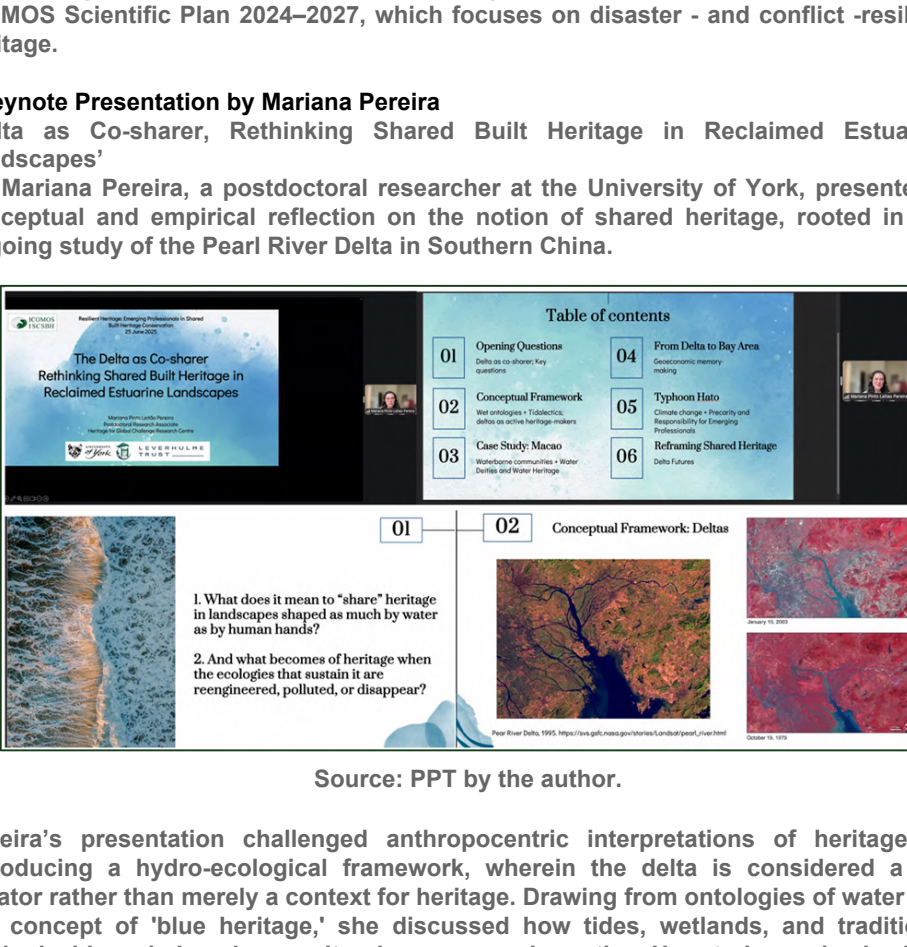
(Thanks Mohamed Fareed for the recording and Helder Faria for the new formatting).

WG 01 – ISCSBH CONCEPT- PRINCIPLES - PERSPECTIVES - DISSONANT HERITAGE and
WG02 – HERITAGE AT RISK – PREPAREDNESS- RESPONSE- RECOVERY
• RESILIENT HERITAGE

Our first webinar of the year was on the topic of Resilient Heritage: Emerging Professionals in Shared Built Heritage Conservation – and took place on 25 June at 1 p.m. Paris time.

Regarding the conference, which you can view at: <https://youtu.be/CvGowXWCwdt18>

We have prepared a Synthesis highlighting the main topics to which I would like to draw your attention.



Youth Perspectives on Resilient Heritage: ICOMOS ISCSBH Webinar Synthesis

Ana Pereira
Maria José Freitas
25 June 2025

Summary

This summary outlines the key discussions and contributions from a recent ICOMOS - ISCSBH (International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage) webinar focused on resilient heritage in the face of disasters, conflicts, and socio-environmental challenges. The event convened a range of participants, including senior members, emerging professionals, and student researchers, with the goal of promoting inclusive dialogue and highlighting innovative approaches to heritage conservation. This synthesis identifies the main speakers, their roles, and the central arguments of each presentation, offering insight into contemporary issues surrounding shared built and intangible heritage.

• Introduction and Opening Remarks - ISCSBH President and EP Representative

The webinar commenced with introductory remarks by Maria José Freitas - ISCSBH President, who emphasized the importance of listening to emerging professionals and young voices in the field of heritage preservation.

The event was structured and moderated by Mohamed Fareed, who is ISCSBH Emerging Professional Representative.

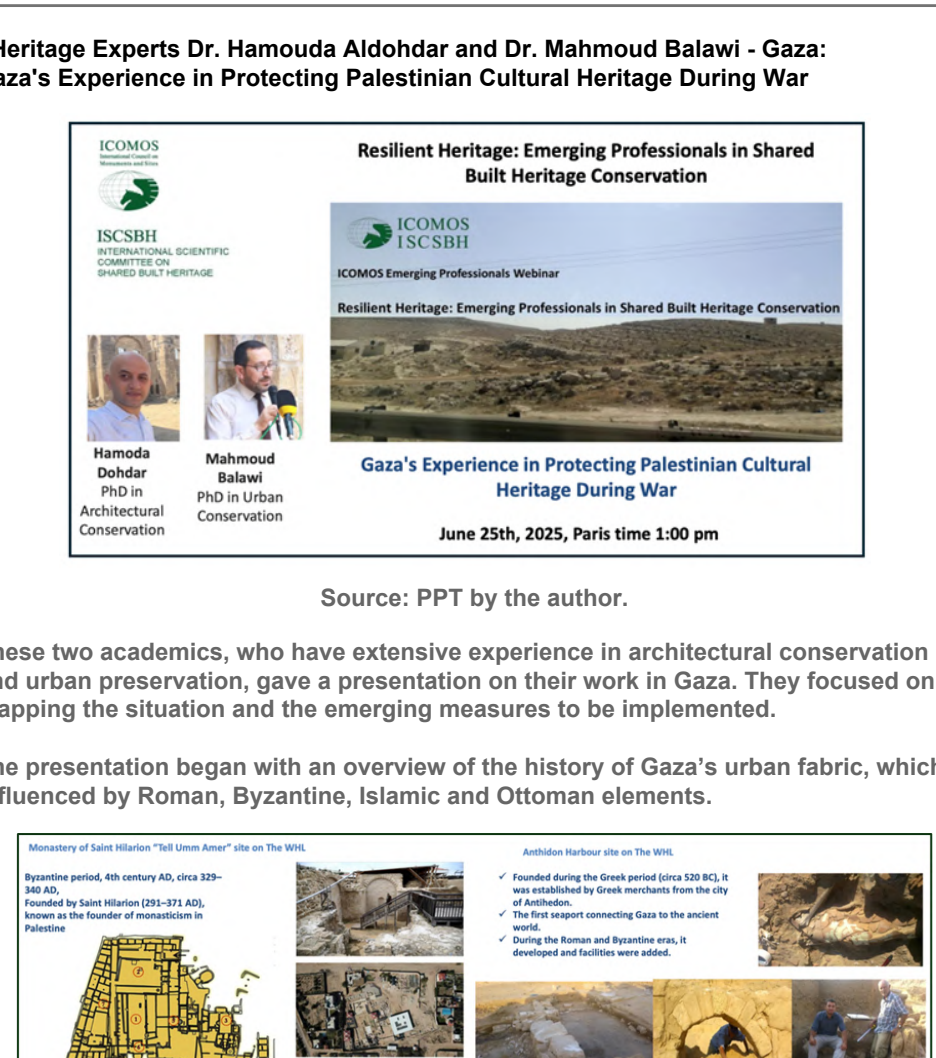
• Keynote speaker Dr. Kerime Danis - ADCOM President

Our first keynote speaker Dr. Kerime Danis plays a central organizational role. Her opening presentation provided an extensive overview of the Advisory Committee's structure, goals, and the current scientific agenda, with particular emphasis on the ICOMOS Scientific Plan 2024–2027, which focuses on disaster - and conflict -resilient heritage.

• Keynote Presentation by Mariana Pereira

'Delta as Co-sharer, Rethinking Shared Built Heritage in Reclaimed Estuarine Landscapes'

Dr. Mariana Pereira, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of York, presented a conceptual and empirical reflection on the notion of shared heritage, rooted in her ongoing study of the Pearl River Delta in Southern China.



Source: PPT by the author.

Pereira's presentation challenged anthropocentric interpretations of heritage by introducing a hydro-ecological framework, wherein the delta is considered a co-creator rather than merely a context for heritage. Drawing from ontologies of water and the concept of 'blue heritage,' she discussed how tides, wetlands, and traditional ecological knowledge shape cultural memory and practice. Her study emphasized the tension between rapid urbanization, delta rebranding (as the Greater Bay Area), and the ecological degradation of historically and culturally significant aquatic landscapes.

• Emerging Professional Presentation - Dr. Ghoufrane Bioud - Algeria

'Towards a Sustainable Future for Shared Built Heritage in Sétif (Algeria): Recognizing, Understanding, and Reusing the 19th and 20th Century Architecture'

Dr. Ghoufrane Bioud from Algeria doctoral researcher in architectural and urban heritage at the University of Biskra, Algeria.



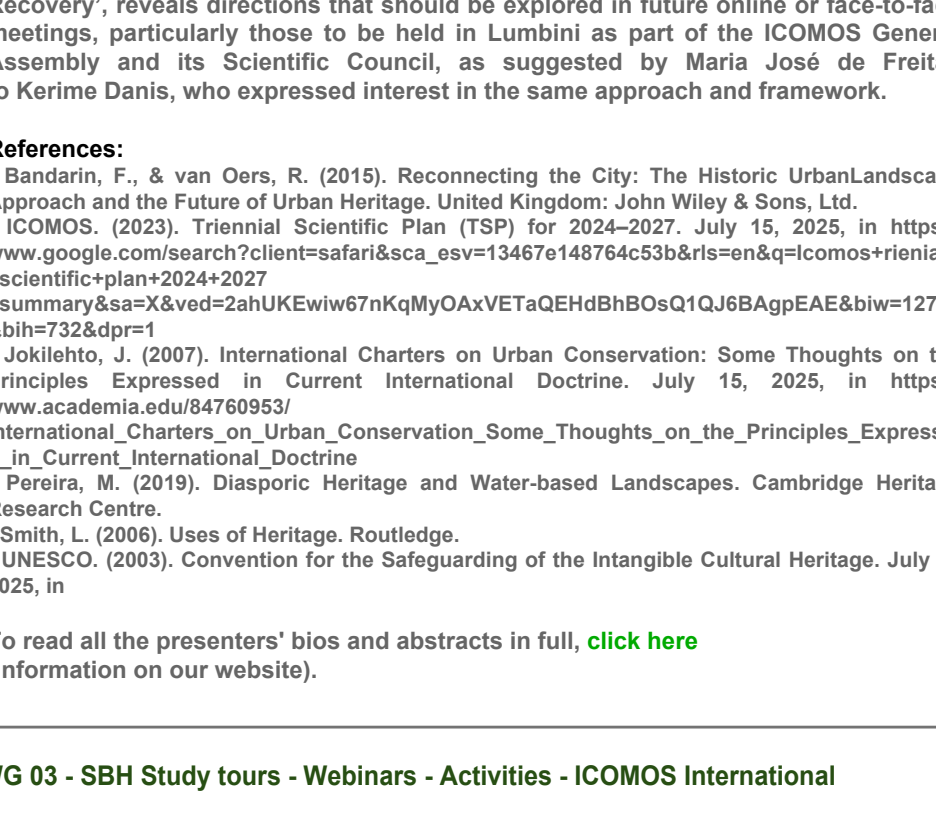
Source: PPT by the author.

The research examined 19th and early 20th-century colonial architecture in the city of Sétif, highlighting its aesthetic and historical value, while acknowledging the socio-political complexities surrounding colonial legacies in post-independence contexts. A mixed-methods approach was used, including architectural surveys, public perception questionnaires, and policy analysis. The presentation concluded with proposals for community-centred adaptive reuse strategies.

• Undergraduate Student Presentation- Vinicius Simedo - Brazil

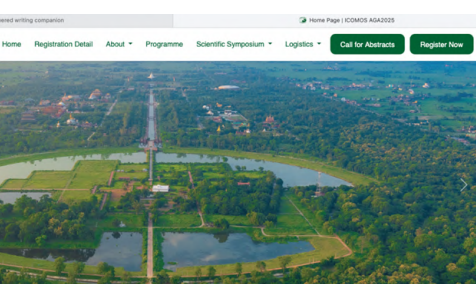
'Vanishing Landscapes: How Mining Endangers Cultural Heritage a reflection on memory, identity, and land disputes'

Dr. Ghoufrane Bioud from Algeria doctoral researcher in architectural and urban heritage at the University of Biskra, Algeria.



Source: PPT by the author.

Vinicius, an undergraduate student from the Federal Institute of Minas Gerais, Brazil, discussed the destructive impact of mining activities on both tangible and intangible heritage in the Serra de Ouro Preto region.

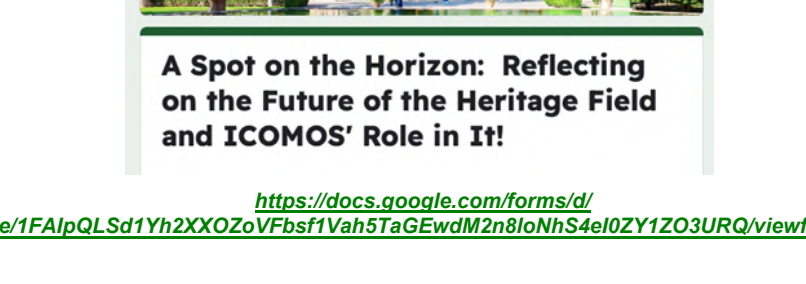


Source: PPT by the author.

The presentation focused on Botafogo, a community whose cultural landscape—including sacred mountains, historic churches, and religious festivals - is deeply entwined with local identity and memory. Vinicius emphasized the importance of stronger legislation, grassroots mobilization, and academic-community cooperation to preserve the region's heritage.

• Heritage Experts Dr. Hamdoua Aldohdar and Dr. Mahmoud Balawi - Gaza:

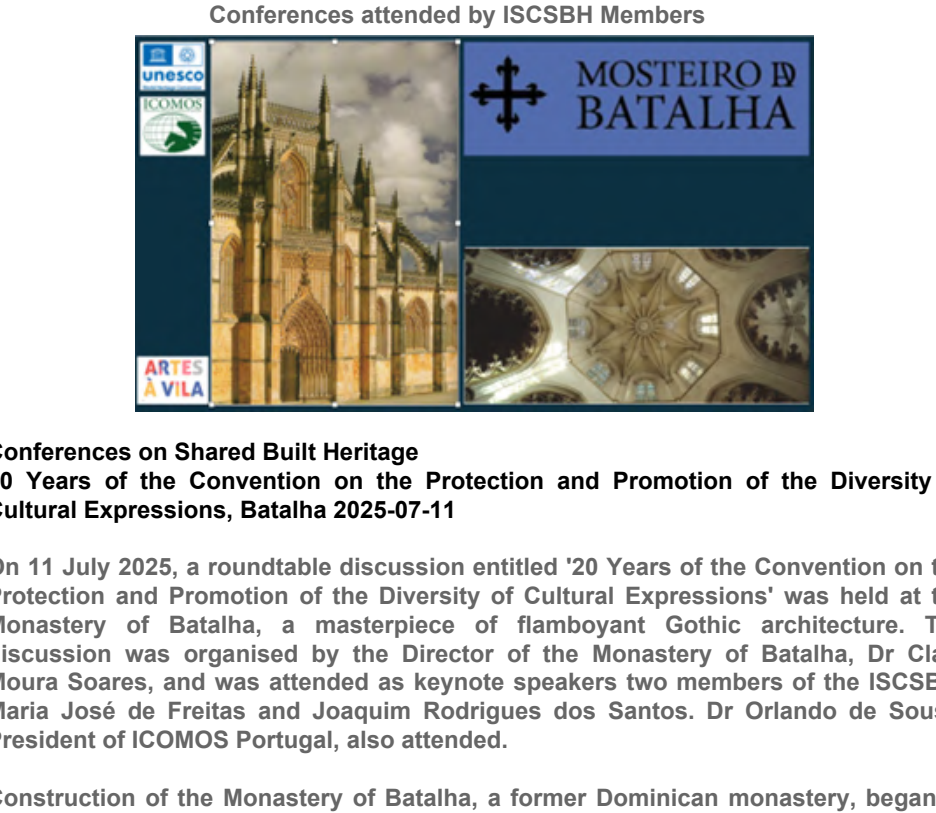
Gaza's Experience in Protecting Palestinian Cultural Heritage During War



Source: PPT by the author.

These two academics, who have extensive experience in architectural conservation and urban preservation, gave a presentation on their work in Gaza. They focused on mapping the situation and the emergency measures to be implemented.

The presentation began with an overview of the history of Gaza's urban fabric, which is influenced by Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and Ottoman elements.



Source: PPT by the author.

The team then discussed emergency responses, such as damage assessments and conservation planning, and emphasized the importance of international cooperation in preserving heritage under crisis conditions. The recommendations provide guidance on good practice in heritage safeguarding.



Source: PPT by the author.

• CONCLUSIONS

This webinar furnished a substantial foundation for critical engagement with the preservation of heritage in challenging contexts. The presentations highlighted the evolution of definitions of shared heritage, transcending the confines of cultural exchange to encompass ecological, political and ethical dimensions.

In more comprehensive methodologies, Nature is considered a co-sharer or interlocutor in the process of safeguarding and protecting heritage. A notable example of this is the HUL (Historic Urban Landscape) methodology.

The active involvement of emerging professionals highlighted the significance of inclusive dialogue and intergenerational collaboration. The event concluded with a series of recommendations, including calls to integrate local knowledge and develop new frameworks for resilient conservation in the 21st century.

This theme, which is part of the ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan (TSP) for 2024-2027 focuses on 'Disaster and Conflict Resilient Heritage: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery', reveals directions that should be explored in future online or face-to-face meetings, particularly those to be held in Lumumbi as part of the ICOMOS General Assembly and its Scientific Council, as suggested by Maria José de Freitas to Kerime Danis, who expressed interest in the same approach and framework.

References:

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To read all the presenters' bios and abstracts in full, [click here](#) (Information on our website).

WG 03 - SBH Study tours - Webinars - Activities - ICOMOS International

• SBH Study Tour and other activities during the ICOMOS AGA, 2025

We are organising a visit to some iconic buildings in Kathmandu on 20 October after the conference in Lumumbi. It will be a study tour, as we usually do. We will send more information soon. We would like to know who is interested in participating.

Regarding the conference itself, here is the information we found on the website.

Please register directly using the link below, if you wish to participate and let us know how many people from our scientific group will be attending this year's main ICOMOS international meeting.

Please follow the link: <https://icomosaga2025.checkout.com/n/>

Please find below further information that has been provided directly by ICOMOS International and other ISCs inside ICOMOS network.

From other ISCs inside ICOMOS

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1Yh2XOZoVfBs1Vah5TaG6XmZnBioNhs4e0ZYi2Y03URQ/viewform>

[isc] TheoPhilos – Issue 23 of Protection of Cultural Heritage just published

<https://ph.pollub.pl/index.php/odk/issue/view/704>

Conferences attended by ISCSBH Members

Conferences on Shared Built Heritage
20 Years of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Batalha 2025-07-11

On 11 July 2025, a roundtable discussion entitled '20 Years of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' was held at the Monastery of Batalha, a masterpiece of flamboyant Gothic architecture. The discussion was organised by the Director of the Monastery of Batalha, Dr Clara Moura Soares, and was attended as keynote speakers two members of the ISCSBH: Maria José de Freitas and Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos. Dr Orlando de Sousa, President of ICOMOS Portugal, also attended.

Construction of the Monastery of Batalha, a former Dominican monastery, began in 1386 to commemorate the victory of the Portuguese King D. João I over the Castilians at the Battle of Aljubarrota. Construction was completed around two centuries later. With its flamboyant Gothic architecture, the Monastery of Batalha has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.

Topics discussed included the shared built heritage linked to the diversity of cultural manifestations that can foster a sense of community belonging.

Source: Courtesy of Dra. Clara Moura Soares

Source: photos by José Luís Jorge

Source: photo by MJF

WG 04 - SBH Communication - Newsletter - Website

We are delighted to send you the second issue of our 2025 newsletter just before the annual holiday period.

The content is very important, so please take the time to read it.

Our website will be updated to include the latest information.

All of our members are welcome to get involved!

WG 06 – SBH and Emerging Professionals

As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, the webinar held under the title 'Resilient Heritage: Emerging Professionals in Shared Built Heritage Conservation' was a significant success.

Our young professionals should be congratulated for their positive contribution to making the concept of shared built heritage more inclusive by integrating nature and respecting pre-existing structures through dialogue. The adaptive reuse of monuments and methodologies for safeguarding, reconstructing and revitalising heritage in ruins were discussed.

We learned that sharing is also a way to help rebuild, and we are grateful for that!

