UNESCO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Cultural Heritage and Identity: an Arab Youth Perspective
1-3 March 2017, Carthage

Biographies
SESSION 1

LEBANON - Mr Assaad SEIF
Lebanese archaeologist and Associate Professor in Archaeology at the Lebanese University. Former Head of the Scientific Departments and coordinator of archaeological research and excavations in Lebanon, at the Directorate General of Antiquities in Beirut. Associate Professor (Lebanese University) - ICOMOS / ICAHM Expert member - Honorary Senior Research Assistant (UCL) - Associate Researcher (LAEC / CNRL).

GERMANY - Prof. Gabi DOLFF-BONEKAMPER
Historian of art and architecture, she has been a professor at the Technische Universität in Berlin. She was curator at the Historic Monuments Office in Berlin from 1988 to 2002, in the period after the fall of the wall, hence her expertise for conflicting heritage and its confrontational value, which creates debate. She was a member of the Council of Europe Experts Group which designed the "Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society". Her publications deal with the theory of heritage, places of memory, post-war architecture and town planning in Europe. Since 2016, she has been a speaker at the Graduiertenkolleg “Identity and Patrimony”, funded by the German National Research Agency (DFG).

MOROCCO - Mr Abderrahim KASSOU
Holder of a Degree in Anthropology, Architect DPLG, DEA in Geography. Member of several Moroccan associations, in particular, Casa-mémoire, Zouziana, FMAS Alternatives Forum, as well as other international associations active in the field of culture such as the European Assembly of Citizens, Architecture and Development, Patrimoine Partagé, etc. Mr Kassou is also a member of the steering committee of the project to rehabilitate the old medina of Casablanca. He is also a member of the National Council for Human Rights (Morocco).

TUNISIA - Ms Chedlia ANNABI
Archaeologist, expert in cultural heritage preservation, former director of the International Council of Museums (Arab section), former curator of the Museum of Carthage. She has been engaged in the fight against the illicit trafficking of archaeological objects and the degradation of museums in the context of conflict and post-conflict, including in Tunisia.

EGYPT - Mr Mohamed GOHAR
Senior practicing architect working in Egypt and the Arab region, having particular emphasis on historical roots of traditional local architecture and its connection to modern society. Founder of Description of Alexandria, a documentation project for the cultural heritage of the city of Alexandria. He is also known as an artist and researcher, working on engaging the public and capturing the narratives associated with the built heritage. He is also a lecturer and TED speaker. His art work is driven by social and cultural influences and has been on display in different local and international exhibitions.
LEBANON - Ms Elza SEFERIAN
Communications and Administrative Assistant at the Danish Refugee Council. Graduate from Haigazian University. She is highly interested in politics, and Middle Eastern/Lebanese politics in particular. She volunteered as a Committee Director at HBS to get involved with a project aimed at creating outstanding critical-thinking of citizens who would probably become real parliamentarians one day and promote a bright future for their country. Delegate of Lebanon and Arab Bloc during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. Speaker at the ICCAR panel during the Habitat III Conference.

SWITZERLAND - Mr Omar AZZABI
Omar Azzabi is an international jurist, specialized in human rights. He graduated in International Relations at the University of Geneva and in International Law at the Université du Québec in Montréal, Canada. He has worked with actors such as Amnesty International, YMCA Québec, the Canton of Geneva, OHCHR and now works with the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a Human Rights Officer in the Division of International Protection. His working experience in humanitarian issues, peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue has led him to live in different countries: Tunisia, Mexico, Uruguay, Canada and Senegal. As a member of the Swiss Green Party, he currently works on migration and integration policies at local, cantonal and federal levels.

PALESTINE - Ms Nidaa BADWAN
Artist and photographer, Nidaa Badwan has lived in Gaza since 1998, where she graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Al-Aqsa University. Between 2009 and 2012, she worked as a trainer in fine arts and photography at the Tamer Institute for Community Education.

SYRIA - Ms Reme SAKR
Born in Australia to Syrian parents, Reme Sakr studied journalism and worked in media in Australia before deciding in 2015 to relocate to Syria to work for the Syria Trust for Development, a large Syrian NGO pioneering projects in education, culture & heritage, social development, and economic empowerment. Her current role as the Syria Trust for Development's Partnerships and Communications Manager involves networking and forging relationships with various international organizations and UN agencies to help reverse the negative effects of the conflict through projects focusing on community cohesion and resilience, and socio-economic development through heritage and culture.

LIBYA - Mr Mohamed ELGHAZAL
Mohamed Elghazal is an entrepreneur who enjoys developing innovative and creative solutions. In addition to his experience in start-ups and management, he has strong programming skills especially in web and mobile development. He is co-founder of Nez3a Aber Campaign.

TUNISIA - Mr Aymen GHARBI
Aymen Gharbi is an artist, architect and culture producer, working in the Medina of Tunis. After graduation from ENAU, he focused on urban heritage and sociocultural participation. His work at the National Heritage Institute allowed him to develop several initiatives and collectives like Doolesha and the Tunis light art project INTERFERENCE, that also took place in the Medina of Tunis.
DAY 2 : Thursday 2 March 2017

SESSION 3

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA - Mr Dervis HADZIMUHAMEDOVIC
Masters student in archaeology at Sarajevo University. He is participant and member of the management team of the International Summer School Youth and Heritage. The School is a practical development of many years of research on tolerance, and draws on an extensive network of partners, both individuals and organizations, who are committed to social and cultural reconstruction, reconciliation, and respect for diversity. The aim is to assist young people to reach a greater appreciation of the diversity and plurality in world cultures.

JORDAN - Ms Zain HAJAHJAH
She is currently a PhD candidate at the International Graduate School: Heritage Studies at Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany. She holds an MSc and a BSc in architecture with a research focus on heritage management and conservation. Her research interests are in heritage restoration and revitalization, tourism development, community development, and ICT innovation in heritage management and preservation.

FRANCE - Mr Benjamin PERROT
Over the past seven years, Benjamin Perrot has worked with cutting-edge architecture practices and art collectives on public realm projects in London, Paris and Tunis. Collaborations include: Muf architecture, art/Palais de Tokyo/ EXYZT/ City Mined/ Echelle Inconnue/ Publica/RARA/ L’Art-Rue. In his practice, he has developed projects that, through the use of different forms and media, reach out into local communities. His collaborative creation of arts installations, urban furniture, community gardens, workshops and urban walks, engage people with design and the built environment.

MOROCCO - Ms Monia BOULAARASSI
PhD candidate at the Faculty of Ain Chock of Casablanca. Expert in gender and social sciences issues. Masters degree in intangible cultural heritage protection and safeguarding. Has been working as graphic designer; author of short movies and documentaries covering topics such as human rights, women empowerment and heritage protection.

TUNISIA - Mr Emir TURKI
Architect and young entrepreneur, he launched in 2015 a successful project entitled “Winou El Patrimoine”, a collaborative online platform (interactive website and social media pages) mobilizing online users to identify abandoned or threatened cultural heritages sites and monuments. This initiative grew and led to the creation of the NGO “Buildings and Memories”, aimed at promoting Tunisian architectural heritage in all its diversity, and fostering civic mobilization whenever needed.

ALGERIA - Ms Nahla BOUHIRED
Artist sculptor, graduated from the school of fine arts of Algiers, she participated in several festivals of contemporary arts. Activist within the association Saving the Casbah of Algiers, she undertook various trainings in Morocco and Tunisia on the rehabilitation of the medinas. She co-founded in June 2016, the association MJE (Movement of youth awakened), aimed at promoting the talent, identity and Algerian culture; as well as the N.A.S. Studio, a crossroads of art and artists in the heart of the Casbah.
EGYPT - Mr Timothy KALDAS
Non-Resident Fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, Director of Communications at the Munathara Initiative and Visiting Professor of Politics at Nile University. His research interests include transitional politics, monetary policy and macroeconomics in Egypt. Beyond Egypt, his research examined the social and political history of sectarianism in Iraq; US policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict; and discrimination against Muslim Europeans, particularly in France. He was a photographer for “The Road to Tahrir,” a photobook documenting the early days of the Egyptian uprising in 2011, and he contributed a chapter on French Muslims to the edited volume, Looming Shadows: Migration and Integration at a Time of Upheaval. He holds an MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University.

PALESTINE - Mr Karim KATTAN
Karim Kattan is a writer and researcher based in France and Palestine. He is currently working on the image of the desert in novels of the post-colonial era. He is the founder of el-Atlal, an international artists’ and writers’ residency in Jericho, Palestine.

OMAN - Ms Nujaida AL MASKARI
Nujaida Al Maskari is a landscape architect, with a professional background in different activities linked to community involvement. She is a founding member of the Jisser student internship platform, and a former member of the Connecting Cultures programme, bringing together 15 young women from various countries gathered in the desert to experience intercultural dialogue in an innovative way. She is also a former coordinator of the Omani mission, aiming at supporting Palestinian farmers economically and environmentally.

TUNISIA - Mr Shiran BEN ABDERRAZAK
Shiran holds a Masters in Political Studies focusing on the Tunisian political system. He works with le Nouvel Economiste for which he covers thematic news and new technologies. In parallel, he is editor-in-chief of El Kasbah, Fragment of Revolution published in March 2014. In January 2015, he published Journal of a Defeat, a compilation of Political Chronicles written between 2011 and 2013. Back in Tunis in 2015 he is involved in the structuring of the cultural sector. He is currently the Managing Director and co-founder of Dar Eyquem, a cultural institution and artist’s residence located in Hammamet. He is finalizing a book on Tunisian cultural policy.

MOROCCO - Mr Rachid ANDALOUSSI BENBRAHIM
President of the renowned NGO Casa-mémoire. In 1990, he founded Rachid Andaloussi Architecture Studio, based in Casablanca. He is also the founder of DECOMOMO and the Amis d’Azemmour association. He is also professor at the architecture school of Rabat, advisor to the Wall of Casablanca and member of the Swiss-Moroccan Foundation for Sustainable Development. In 2009, he was appointed by Jeune Afrique as one of 50 Moroccan personalities.

ALGERIA - Ms Amina MENIA
Amina Menia is a mixed-media artist living and working in Algiers, Algeria. Her work questions the relation to architectural and historical spaces, and challenges conventional notions around the exhibition space. Menia has showed her work internationally, including Museum of Modern Art (Algiers), the Museum of African Design in Johannesburg and the Royal Hibernian Academy (Dublin), among others. She took part in the Sharjah and Dakar Biennials as well as Folkestone and Brugges Triennials.
DAY 3 : Friday 3 March 2017

SESSION 5

LIBYA - Ms Nada EL FEITURI
Nada Elfeituri is a 26-year old architect, blogger and civic activist from Benghazi, Libya. She is currently part of the executive committee of the Libyan Institute of Architects, focusing on the needs of young architects, and volunteers her spare time to Benghazi’s civil society. Nada has always had a passion for the intersection between civic development and the built environment, and advocates for the active involvement of local communities in the design and rehabilitation of the city. She is also a Georgetown MEPI alumna and she is an active member of the NET-MED Youth Project.

LEBANON - General Hussein LAKIS
After a distinguished military career, General Lakkis was elected Mayor of Baalbeck in 2016. He has been working since then for the revitalization of the historical city as a major tourist center in Lebanon, and has been mobilizing creative partnerships in the education, culture, sport, environment sectors, etc. The city won the Tehran Adobe Prize. General Lakkis chairs the Network of Historic and Archeologic Cities.

TUNISIA - Mr Zoubeir MOUHLI
Zoubeir Mouhli is an architect and urban planner who graduated from ITAAUT (Tunisia). He is currently the Director General of the Association de Sauvegarde de la Médina de Tunis, affiliated to the municipality of Tunis. Since 2013, he has also been the Director of the Foundation for Arab Historic Cities and Heritage. He has taught at the National Architecture School of Tunisia and has extensive publications on heritage protection.

FRANCE - Mr Pierre BAILLET
Mr Baillet is a French Academic. He first worked at the Government General Secretariat for a conciliation process. Then he worked at the National Assembly where he was in particular in charge of following the activities of parliamentary friendship groups with Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Irak and Djibouti. He finally joined the Boulongne Billancourt City Hall as a Chief of Staff. In 1995 he joins the Association of French speaking Mayors as a Chief of Staff. Permanent Secretary since 2009.

MAURITANIA - Mr Ahmedou SIDINA BOCK
Mr Ahmedou Sidina Boek is advisor to the mayor of Tevragh-Zeina, located in North-West of the capital Nouakchott. Holds a Master in linguistic policies and Education technologies from Maine University (France). Director at the Office of the Olympic Center, Ministry of Youth and Sports.

MOROCCO - Mr Foued ZEFRI
Mr Zefri is a lawyer at Tangiers Lawyers Bar, Advisor to the city council and Vice-President of Mghogha district, in charge of urban planning.