

# **Spatial Humanities 2024**

**Book of Conference Abstracts**

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# Introduction

Dear Researchers,

We were happy to host the Spatial Humanities 2024 in Bamberg with more than one hundred participants from 26 countries. A big thank you to all who contributed with presentations, posters, with reviewing proposals or chairing sessions, to the Spatial Humanities Executive Committee and to all the helpers during the conference.

The conference covered classic spatial humanities topics such as gazetteers and georeferencing, open spatial data, demography and historical GIS approaches, deep mapping, and network analysis. As a result of the special focus on heritage studies, several sessions dealt with urban heritage, the urban environment, deep mapping for heritage and culture, and mapping sensory experiences.

This book of abstracts compiles the (extended) abstracts of all presentations and posters that were presented at the conference. The talks are grouped by session title as you can see in the table of contents.

*Klaus Stein, Anastasia Bauch, Carmen M. Enss*

Please note that this collection presents the abstracts as is (including formatting). If no updated version was provided the original version submitted for review was used.

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## 3.12 The mapping of archaeological sites in Portuguese territorial planning

*Gertrudes Branco, Jaquelina Covaneiro, Leonor Rocha*

“Better information leads to better decisions”. This is a true premise when applied to the use of geographic information systems in territorial and urban planning, due to their ability to build, analyse and map georeferenced data, which is essential to support decision-making processes.

In Portugal, the general inventory of archaeological sites has always been the responsibility of the public institute responsible for managing archaeological heritage and activity. In the 1980s, they began the first effort to create a national inventory of archaeological sites, called the “Archaeological Charter of Portugal”.

The manual inventory consisted of a set of archaeological site cards with various fields of information, including geographical information, with reference to the military maps of Portugal at a scale of 1:25000. The first attempts to build an information system date back to the mid-1990s and resulted in the creation of a database - Endovélico - associated with a geographic information system, which still supports the information on the “Portal do Arqueólogo” web interface.

The “Portal do Arqueólogo” is an “electronic platform for accessing information on archaeological heritage” that provides information on archaeological sites in mainland Portugal, associated with a GeoPortal that allows you to view their location.

This interface is an indispensable working tool for archaeologists, but also for public and private entities, which are responsible for keeping land-use planning and management models up to date, in which it is essential to characterize and identify cultural values, including the delimitation of areas with a view to safeguarding archaeological information contained in the soil and subsoil.

Our understanding, and our project, which has been tested in a few territorial units, including the municipality of Tavira (Algarve, Portugal), is to turn these territorial planning and management models into knowledge repositories that go beyond the spatial inventory of heritage elements, materialized in maps with points, associated with lists of designations and typologies.

Our specific aim is to create dynamic heritage inventories, combining the tools of geographic information systems with an archaeological recording protocol, which compiles and keeps up-to-date the information known and continuously produced in a given territory and, at the same time, analyses and transforms it into a robust, constantly updated, sufficiently autonomous and transversal information base that can be useful to the actors who administratively manage the territory, to citizens and to archaeologists looking for the basis for building historical and cultural knowledge.

The starting point for this project is the collection of information - documentary, oral, bibliographic, cartographic and archaeological - its processing and compilation into a database, which acts as a container for the distribution of heritage elements, represented in polygons and linear traces, in a geographic information system, which allows us to visualize the heritage content of a given territory at a given time.

What knowledge can we anticipate from analysing the distribution of archaeological sites, of a certain chronology, in relation to the landscape units in which they are located? Are there patterns? trends? preferred locations?

How can we, in planning and management, anticipate the impacts resulting from the implementation of large and small urban development projects? suggest less impacting alternatives in order to safeguard the archaeological heritage, as an added value for territories with low and high urban density?

Inventorying and valuing archaeological sites makes sense as part of a strategy for managing heritage resources and channeling investments towards their enhancement and public dissemination. What criteria should be used?

These, and other, questions are some of those that we have debated in the design and implementation of our project and which we would like to address and discuss with you.