Cultural Heritage and Sustainability: towards an integrated approach (CULTSUS)



View of the old slaughterhouse quarters of Mattatoio in Testaccio overlooking Ostiense, Rome. 2019. Photo: Ola Wetterberg

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Abstract

We propose to integrate cultural heritage and sustainability studies to supplement the three pillars of sustainable development (environmental, social, economic) with a fourth that highlights culture. We further argue that cultural heritage studies can invigorate our understanding of sustainability transitions, and that collaboration between the academy and the surrounding society is a necessity. The purpose of CULTSUS is to substantiate and critically examine that claim. By employing a two-pronged approach outlined below, we demonstrate how cultural heritage adds essential dimensions to the concept of sustainability and to sustainability transitions as formulated in the United Nations' (2015) "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and other global initiatives. We contend that such an integrated approach to critical and applied cultural heritage studies has the potential to invigorate sustainability studies and education and learning for sustainable development, practically as well as theoretically.

Research plan

Purpose and goals

Global challenges continue to produce an asymmetrical impact on humanity, leaving societies in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) with the greatest suffering. Indeed the severity of the problem underscores the importance of global social and environmental justice. It is clear that present-day strategies of mitigation and adaptation are inadequate to halt and reverse challenges such as global warming and that there is an urgent need for scientifically informed policies at multiple scales that integrate insights from critical and applied cultural heritage studies. Although the severity of our global challenges is intrinsically linked to the economic and metabolic system of the present world (globalized financialization and economy, fossil fuels, etc.), most challenges perceived and experienced by communities past and present (e.g., lack of food, clean water, shelter, peace, energy, social and economic inequalities, etc.) are largely timeless (Fouseki et al. 2022; Willett et al. 2019). Although it has been argued that mainstay practices for human coping no longer provide reliable or even useful templates when planning for future uncertainty (Kaaronen et al. 2021), we propose that important insights can be gained from the diversity of human experiences and ways of life in the past that for long have been overlooked in discourse, policy, and practical solutions towards sustainability transitions (Escobar 2020; Harrison & Sterling 2020; Isendahl & Stump 2019; van der Leeuw 2020).

Our solution

We will wed cultural heritage and sustainability studies in order to identify new opportunities for sustainability transitions. The purpose of CULTSUS is to critically examine and substantiate the claim that cultural heritage constitutes important resources to supplement the three pillars of sustainable development (environmental, social, economic) with a fourth that highlights culture. However, such a strategy needs to be theoretically anchored and contextualized.

Theoretical framework

CULTSUS focuses on the integration of two complementary fields within heritage studies to contribute to sustainability transitions: applied and critical.

Applied approaches are largely utilitarian, drawing on multifaceted heritage datasets as a resource for uncovering the diversity of past human behaviors to address practical problems in the present. They tend to conceptualize and utilize records of the past in three overlapping ways: (1) the past as difference, providing alternative solutions to those observed in the present; (2) the past as analogous,

forming test laboratories for different courses of action; and (3) the past as a record of long-term processes, revealing the dynamics among variables operating over different temporal scales. In a sense, heritage records are 'mined' for insight to theoretically and/or practically inform sustainable resource management for instance of building construction material through planning approaches (Fouseki et al. 2020; Minaverry & Valverde 2021; Wells & Stiefel 2019), adaptive re-use (Plevoets & Van Cleempoel 2019; Ross 2020; Wong 2017) and repair (Jackson 2014; van Dooren 2014), traditional craft (Westerlund et al. 2022; Ingold 2013), and transformation of food habits (Alexopoulos et al. 2022). A complete academic milieu, CULTSUS integrates applied and critical approaches to Education and Learning for Sustainable Development (ESD) from preschool to university.

Critical approaches examine the construction of heritage and the social, cultural, political, and economic roles of different heritage practices; how people in different times and places draw on the past, engage with the present, and forecast possible futures (Harrison & Sterling 2020; Head et al. 2017; Flinn & von Rosen in press). Applied approaches to heritage calls for a strong counterpart in critical examination and understanding of heritage's functions and impacts. To mobilize heritage as a significant resource for sustainability, we must transcend static, normative categories of "heritage" and "waste" (Appelgren 2020; Pétursdóttir & Bangstad 2021). Our research gives systematic attention to potential consequences of heritage and associated practices, bringing ethical and gender issues (Grahn & Wilson 2018) to the forefront, including inequality, injustice, exploitation, and oppression caused by uses of heritage. Adhering to the fundamental obligation to safeguarding heritage in all its diverse forms and expressions, not least for diversity's contribution to sustainability transitions, we recognize the acute need to decolonize heritage knowledge and practices, particularly in LMIC. (Hammami & Uzer 2022)

Preliminary and previous results

Applying this two-pronged approach has positioned UGOT at an internationally leading position, particularly through the UGOT Challenge-supported Centre for Critical Heritage Studies (CCHS). The track record shows a high outcome of co-authored, cross-disciplinary, multi-national peer-reviewed publications, summarized in yearly reports and international assessments. CCHS scholars have coordinated and participated in externally funded projects with an average of about 70 MSEK per year, including EU funding from Marie Curie and Erasmus+ and an ERC Synergy grant at 100 MSEK. Most projects integrate national and international collaborations, within and outside academia.

CCHS as well as other UGOT scholars have integrated different fields of studies, co-production of knowledge and participatory outreach activities with heritage practitioners and other non-academic stakeholders to support the emergence of a diverse inter- and transdisciplinary framework for CULTSUS. CCHS and its antecedents have forged collaborations across UGOT and beyond for over a decade, including with University College London (UCL) and other national and international partners. With an explicit focus on integrating cultural heritage and sustainability studies, CULTSUS will build on this experience to further collaborations with additional scholars and research groups as well as with non-academic partners and ESD initiatives.

Current state of research

Internationally, the examination of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development has rapidly expanded and diversified. Because CULTSUS is a multidisciplinary field, a series of complementary approaches has emerged from a range of cognate disciplines across the natural and social sciences, humanities, and the arts united by a focus on how heritage – as a set of theoretical concepts, values, material and immaterial entities, and/or practices – can contribute to sustainability transitions (Fouseki et al. 2020, 2022; Harrison et al. 2020; Harrison & Sterling 2020; Harvey & Perry 2015; Isendahl & Stump 2019; Melhuish et al. 2022; Tunón & Sandell 2021). In other words, the heritage research frontier is highly multifaceted, and consists of a wide range of idiosyncratic but complementary critical

and applied approaches to inform sustainability challenges. Based on previous and planned research results, networks, and collaborations, UGOT scholars are in a unique position to advance the potential of heritage studies to support sustainability transitions. CULTSUS will build on this momentum to further collaborative initiatives that practically and/or theoretically inform and support ESD and capacity-building toward sustainability transitions.

Research description

CULTSUS activities for the first three years include 1) initiating the formation of a CULTSUS research network community from existing research clusters at UGOT and beyond, 2) identifying prioritized themes and supporting the emergence of additional research clusters, 3) supporting a network for early-stage researchers (ESR), 4) develop existing collaborative platforms and identify and connect with further non-academic partners, 5) sponsor new research collaborations and promote larger joint research applications through a seed funding program, and 6) introduce new cross-disciplinary ESD courses and programs at all levels of education.

International and national cooperation.

National and international cooperation is well established among all CULTSUS participants. Of special significance is the formal partnership structure of CCHS between UGOT and the globally leading UCL, including shared governance, activities, and goals, supporting continuity and distributed activities. Furthermore, participants are engaged in extended international cooperation through EU-funded projects, including two Marie Curie research schools on heritage and the CHARTER project on heritage skills. CCHS-scholars initiated and are editors of the Element Series on Critical Heritage Studies at Cambridge University Press, a key book series for cutting-edge heritage research. Existing national cooperation includes the VR-funded graduate school Educating for Play-Responsive Teaching in Early Childhood Education for Social and Cultural Sustainability.

Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations form an overarching and integral part of CULTSUS's inter- and transdisciplinary work across the humanities and arts and the social and natural sciences, and at every level of collaboration with non-academic partners (following the European Commission framework Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)). Engaging with issues of social and environmental justice and human rights as well as applied research raises various aspects of ethics. Solid cross-border practical experience, updated theoretical awareness, and pro-active engagement inform the profile area's ethical work.

Equipment and research infrastructure in the short and long term

CULTSUS's research infrastructure and equipment is secured via CCHS and other partners' established and highly successful collaborations, including with the *Centre for Digital Humanities* (CDH) at UGOT. CDH has a particular focus on digital cultural heritage and sustainability. CDH's research infrastructure is comprised of three parts: 1) an interdisciplinary expertise infrastructure of researchers and engineers with skills in digital documentation, implementations, methodologies, and analysis; 2) an e-infrastructure of digital tools, resources, and data sets; and 3) a lab with computers, documentation equipment, computation facilities, advanced digitalisation and visualization soft- and hardware and premises designed for digital and collaborative research work.

The Craft Laboratory (CL), hosted at UGOT's Department of Conservation, is a national center for sustainable building, gardening, and landscape management. It provides facilities, tools, and expert support in education, doctoral studies, and research on advanced craft knowledge for historic en-

vironments and a sustainable future. CL's activities are designed in collaboration with national, regional, and local actors including NGO:s. CL runs networks for professionals, biannual outreach and scientific conferences, publications and a youtube channel. The Department of Conservation maintains scientific laboratories for heritage science, including the analysis of materials and conservation.

The Swedish Rock Art Research Archives (SHFA), hosted by the Faculty of Humanities at UGOT, is a national archive for rock art documentation and research that contains more than 20,000 digitized images of rock carving documentation, primarily from Sweden but also from Denmark, Norway, Italy, and Spain. Furthermore, the Department of Historical Studies cooperates closely with the Museum of World Cultures in Gothenburg (MWC), including its conservation scientists, examining MWC's extensive collections of cultural heritage objects from LMIC in particular, frequently co-productively with indigenous communities.

The Faculty of Fine, Applied, and Performing Arts at UGOT manages professional workshops, studios, and public arenas for arts, crafts, and performance, as well as generates cultural heritage research outcomes with international proliferation.

The importance of collaboration for the scientific quality and relevance of research within the profile area

Our ambition to integrate applied and critical approaches to contribute to sustainable transitions makes collaboration (co-production of knowledge, transdisciplinarity) a necessary and integrated approach to research. At UGOT and UCL, CCHS already hosts a number of large, international, collaborative projects, including *Heritage Futures and Restricted Access Pilot Project: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Clean Energy Production and Landscape Conservation in North Patagonia*, and Kristian Kristiansen's highly prestigious top-tier ERC Synergy Grant *COREX: From Correlations to Explanations*. The VR-funded *Digital Repatriation of Amazonian Cultural Heritage* is a research collaboration among the Department of Historical Studies, MWC, Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará, Brazil, and indigenous Amazonian communities. Collaboration with the surrounding society also takes place in research and ESD with regional and national institutions (e.g., *Re:Heritage* with the MWC, municipalities, and private companies and *Expansion and Diversity* with the National Archives), as well as in direct involvement with the public (e.g., *Hidden Sites* in which academics and artists work together with the municipality and local communities.)

The integration of artistic research with other traditionally more analytical disciplines is a particular strength of CULTSUS; it challenges orthodox scientific criteria of relevance and forms of collaboration, transcends disciplinary boundaries, and underlines its transdisciplinary nature. These collaborations are essential for the scientific quality of the research that will be carried out and for the potential to contribute to sustainability transitions, for instance through <u>PLACE</u>: Public Life, Arts and Critical Engagement.

The profile area's strategies for collaboration with the surrounding society.

The strategies for collaboration with the surrounding society include 1) platforms for networking with heritage institutions; 2) involvement with international organizations, NGOs, and local communities; and 3) direct collaboration in research projects, PhD schools, as well as in practice. UGOT scholars and research groups have established collaborative platforms and a vast number of outreach and participatory activities, including co-production of knowledge with non-academic stakeholders.

The interaction with non-academic partners forms a strategic activity for CULTSUS. Platforms for collaboration exist on different levels at several faculties, including (in addition to CL and CDH noted above) the following. The Heritage Academy (<u>HA</u>) is since 10 years a platform for dialogue and collaboration between UGOT, CCHS, and more than 40 heritage institutions in West Sweden. HA's primary purpose is to increase knowledge exchange on material and intangible cultural heritage in the

context of global challenges and foster critical dialogue in research, management, and utilization of heritage. Activities include joint seminars and conferences, heritage fairs, continuing education, networks, podcasts, and seed funding.

The Centre for Tourism (CFT) at UGOT has more than 20 years of experience in tourism research and education. Engaged in inter- and transdisciplinary research, CFT's research spans a broad variety of disciplines and approaches, including collaboration with stakeholders, industry, and local communities in critical and applied research on the linkages between tourism and heritage.

Active involvement in international networks and organizations is an integrated strategy for collaboration with the surrounding society. UGOT scholars are engaged in a number of global research networks addressing global challenges such as the Association for Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS), Integrated History and Future of People on Earth (IHOPE), and in ICCROM's Youth Heritage Africa program. It can also be mentioned that UGOT's support was instrumental for the City of Gothenburg's successful bid to become the 2021 UNESCO City of Literature.

The importance of collaboration for joint knowledge production and use of the profile area's research in the surrounding society.

The wide experience of the CULTSUS team guarantees sustainable knowledge production, co-production of knowledge, and research communication benefiting stakeholders outside of academia. Among numerous initiatives, the HA's outreach program and societal impact ambitions beyond academia, students, and museum visitors deserve special mention. For instance, the podcasts Matarvspodden (the Food Heritage Podcast) and Inside the Box (both jointly hosted by UGOT and museums/archives) reach a broad audience all over Sweden and the Nordic countries. With the English episodes of the Inside the Box-podcast we reach out to a global audience. Our communication platforms (website, Facebook, Twitter, and research blogs) facilitate outreach and dialogue with the surrounding society. These cooperation platforms ensure the production of joint knowledge-production and the use of the profile area's research in the surrounding society.

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Appendix.

10 titles with description in alphabetical order:

1) Appelgren, S. (2020). Creating with traces of life: waste, reuse and design. *Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development* 10(1): 65–75.

This article contributes to the CULTSUS profile area both theoretically and empirically by showing how critical heritage perspectives can expand our understanding of practical sustainability work. The article forms a key part of a series exploring reuse at the intersection of heritage and sustainability. It adopts a posthumanist perspective on waste as traces of life to investigate how the alternative heritage work of redesigners transforms discarded building materials into sustainable reuse interior designs. It combines recent research on waste, shifting focus from representational and symbolic aspects to its material and indexical relations to human life, with critical perspectives emphasizing heritage as encompassing different and ambiguous ways of engaging with material transformation over time. The sensory ethnographic approach reveals how materials are approached as unfolding processes rather than closed objects. Tracing how redesigners capitalize on the ambiguity of traces of life in building materials, the article shows how uncertainty and risk are inevitable companions when working with reuse in sustainability projects. To rehabilitate used things, and reassociate with materials classified as waste or heritage, means following their trajectories of becoming and responding to their signs of life. While involving important benefits, this often leads to the inconvenient and risky mess characteristic of an interconnected and entangled multispecies world.

2) Appelgren S., & Bohlin, A. (2020). Harnessing the unruly: anthropological contributions in applied reuse projects. *kritisk etnografi: Swedish Journal of Anthropology* 3(2): 87–103.

This article is relevant for CULTSUS because it focuses on heritage and sustainable consumption, both spin-offs from a more conventional academic research project on second-hand and reuse. The article illustrates the importance and benefits of working transdisciplinary within the profile area and how knowledge is co-produced in tight collaboration between academic and non-academic partners. This seems especially true with heritage/sustainability projects that often benefit from being thoroughly grounded. It described experiences of working with museums, the municipality and industry partners in both exploring and promoting reuse furniture and interior designs in public offices and curating a section of a major museum exhibition on the theme of sustainable consumption. It shows how heritage perspectives enable a subtle critique of dominant Circular Economy discourses that tend to reduce objects to material resources, disregarding their social and cultural values. Whereas Circular Economy initiatives tend to promote the core values associated with the modern linear production system; efficiency, reduction, and detachment – values that led to an extreme form of planetary resource depletion in the first place – reuse in line with critical heritage perspectives acknowledge interconnectedness and relations, stressing layers of significance of objects to be actively valued and cared for.

3) Flinn, A., & von Rosen, A. (in press). Sven Lindqvist and Gräv där du står: An Introduction to the English Translation of Dig Where You Stand, in Lindqvist, S., (Flinn, A. & von Rosen, A., (eds)) *Dig Where You Stand: How to Research a Job*. Translated by Ann Henning Jocelyn. London: Repeater Books.

The introduction by Flinn and von Rosen to the first English edition of Lindqvists book are foundational to CULTUS focus on participatory, grassroot, DIY, and history from below approaches to heritage and sustainability. How do we make sustainability today and in the future? First published in 1978, DWYS is a rallying cry for workers to become researchers, to follow the money, take on the role as experts on their job, and "dig" out its hidden histories to take a vital step towards social and economic transformation. A how-to guide that inspired an entire movement, it makes the case that

everyone – not just academics – can learn how to critically and rigorously explore history, especially their own history, and in doing so find a blueprint for how to transform society for the better. In a world where the balance of power is overwhelmingly stacked against the working-class, Dig Where You Stand 's manifesto for the empowerment of workers through self-education, historical research and political solidarity is as important and relevant today as it was in 1978. Sven Lindqvist's classic and foundational critical heritage text on history, power and politics is a foundational text, for the CULTSUS profile area.

4) Fouseki, K., Cassar, M., Dreyfuss, G., & Eng, K. A. K. (eds) (2022). *Routledge Handbook of Sustainable Heritage*. London: Routledge.

This handbook is relevant for the CULTSUS application because it demonstrates the global reach and impact made by UGOT and CCHS scholars. The book presents cutting-edge and global insights on sustainable heritage, engaging with ideas such as data science in heritage, climate change and environmental challenges, indigenous heritage, contested heritage and resilience. It does so across a diverse range of global heritage sites. Organized into six themed parts, the handbook offers cross-disciplinary perspectives on the latest theory, research and practice. Thirty-five chapters offer insights from leading scholars and practitioners in the field as well as early career researchers. This book fills a lacuna in the literature by offering scientific approaches to sustainable heritage, as well as multicultural perspectives by exploring sustainable heritage in a range of different geographical contexts and scales. The themes covered revolve around heritage values and heritage risk; participatory approaches to heritage; dissonant heritage; socio-environmental challenges to heritage; sustainable heritage-led transformation and new cross-disciplinary methods for heritage research. This book will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars in heritage studies, archaeology, museum studies, cultural studies, architecture, landscape, urban design, planning, geography and tourism.

5) Hammami, F., & Uzer, E. (eds) (2022). *Theorizing Heritage Through Non-Violent Resistance*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan

This book is about the entanglement of heritage and resistance in different situations of conflicts, and the opportunities this entanglement may provide for social justice. This entanglement is investigated in the different contributions through theoretical and empirical analyses of heritage-led resistance to neoliberal economic development, violation of the subaltern, authorized narratives and state-invented traditions, colonialism and settler colonialism, and even dominating discourses of social movement, to name just a few. Crossing the disciplinary boundaries of heritage and resistance studies, these analyses bring new insights into several timely debates, especially those concerned with the interrelated critical questions of displacement, gentrification, exclusion, marginalization, urbicide, spatial cleansing, dehumanization, alienation, ethnic cleansing and social injustice. Following our purposeful and future-driven approach, we wish to bring new energy to the field of heritage studies through the focus on the potential of heritage and resistance for hopeful change rather than adding to the field yet another overwhelming engagement with conflict and war.

6) Harrison, R., & Sterling, C. (red.) (2020). *Deterritorializing the Future: Heritage in, of and after the Anthropocene*. London: Open Humanities Press.

This publication is relevant for CULTSUS research because understanding how past resources operate in the present is a fundamental first step towards building alternative futures in the Anthropocene, which is a key concern for the profile area. This collection, to which UGOT and CCHS scholars have contributed, is edited by Harrison and Sterling. It brings together perspectives from a range of disciplines to explore concepts of care, vulnerability, time, extinction, loss and inheritance across more-than-human worlds, connecting contemporary developments in the posthumanities with the field

of critical heritage studies. Drawing on contributions from archaeology, anthropology, critical heritage studies, gender studies, geography, histories of science, media studies, philosophy, and science and technology studies, the book places concepts of heritage at the centre of discussions of the Anthropocene and its associated climate and extinction crises – not as a nostalgic longing for how things were, but as a means of expanding collective imaginations and thinking critically and speculatively about the future and its alternatives.

7) Head, L., Saltzman, K., Setten, G. & Stenseke, M. (red.) (2017). *Nature, temporality and environ-mental management: Scandinavian and Australian perspectives on peoples and landscapes*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge

This book is relevant for CULTSUS because it focuses how different concepts of nature and time embedded into human practices of landscape and environmental management. The question is how temporalities that entwine past, present and future can help us deal with challenges on the ground. In a time of uncertainty and climate change, how much can we hold onto ideals of nature rooted in a pristine and stable past? This book presents examples from farmers, gardens and Indigenous communities, among others, and shows that many people and communities are already actively engaging with environmental change and uncertainty. The book is structured around four themes; environmental futures, mobile natures, indigenous and colonial legacies, heritage and management. The rich empirical content of the chapters exposes the diversity of meanings, practices, and ways of being in nature that can be derived from cultural environmental research in different disciplines. The everyday engagements between people, nature and temporalities provide important creative resources with which to meet future challenges.

8) Isendahl, C., & Stump, D. (eds) (2019). *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The volume is highly relevant for CULTSUS's applied ambitions, because rather than merely acting as advocates for heritage data, the chapters warn of the limitations of drawing simple lessons from the history of interactions between humans and environments to inform sustainability transitions, and note that doing so is potentially just as damaging as ignoring cultural and biocultural heritage data. The volume presents theoretical analyses, methodological outlines, and case studies describing the overlap of the theoretical and methodological framework of historical ecology, and the emerging subdiscipline of applied archaeology. Historical ecology is based on the recognition that humans are not only capable of modifying their environments, but that all environments on earth have already been directly or indirectly modified. This includes anthropogenic climate change, widespread deforestation, and species extinction, but also local alterations, the effects of which may last a few years, or may have legacies lasting centuries or more. The volume presents a range of case studies that highlight how present environments have been shaped by humans, and includes outlines of the methods we can use to better understand these changes by drawing on heritage data. Authors include anthropologists, archaeologists, human geographers, and historians, all of whom are focused not just on defining human impacts in the past, but on the ways that understanding these changes can help inform contemporary practices and sustainable development policies. Some present examples of how past or current societies have modified their environments in sustainable ways, while others highlight practices that had unintended intergenerational consequences increasing vulnerabilities. The opportunities to learn from these practices are discussed, as is the potential of using histories of resource exploitation as a method for building and testing models of future change.

9) Melhuish, C., Benesch, H., Holmberg Martins, I., & Sully, D. (eds) (2022). *Co-curating the City: Universities and Urban Heritage Past and Future*. London: UCL Press.

A key component of CULTSUS ambition to contribute to sustainable development, the book highlights the participatory processes through which universities are positioning themselves as significant institutions in the development of urban heritage narratives. CCHS scholars from UGOT and UCL explore the role of universities in the construction and mobilisation of heritage discourses in urban development and regeneration processes, with a focus on six case study sites: University of Gothenburg (Sweden), UCL East (London), University of Lund (Sweden). Roma Tre university (Rome), American University of Beirut, and Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil. The book expands the field of critical heritage studies and sustainability in the urban domain, by examining the role of institutional actors both in the construction of urban heritage discourses and in how those discourses influence urban planning decisions or become instrumentalised as mechanisms for urban regeneration. Bridging academia and practice the case studies investigate how universities, as mixed communities of interest dispersed across buildings and urban sites, engage in strategies of engagement with local people and neighborhoods, and ask how this may be contributing to a sustainable re-shaping of ideas, narratives, and lived experience of urban heritage in which universities have a distinctive agency.

10) Westerlund, T., Groth, C., & Almevik, G. (2022). Craft Sciences. Sweden: Kriterium.

This book is a key volume for CULTSUS interdisciplinary foundation because it provides a platform from which to develop context-appropriate research strategies to associate with the Craft Sciences beyond the borders of faculties and disciplines. The field of 'Craft Sciences' refers to research conducted across and within different craft subjects and academic contexts. This anthology aims to expose the breadth of topics, source material, methods, perspectives, and results that reside in this field, and to explore what unites the research in such diverse contexts as, for example, the arts, conservation, or vocational craft education. The main contribution of this book is that it collects together a number of related case studies and presents a reflection on concepts, perspectives, and methods in the general fields of craft research from the point of view of craft practitioners. It adds to the existing academic discussion of crafts through its wider acknowledgement of craftsmanship and extends its borders and its discourse outside the arts and crafts context.

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