

Interdisciplinary ISC Scientific Theme for the 2012-15 Triennium: Cultural Landscapes of Human Habitation

One of the Scientific Council's mandates is to develop "umbrella" themes for interdisciplinary research. We are also tasked with proposing and organizing the one-day Advisory Committee scientific symposia as well as suggesting themes for the General Assembly. As such, we propose the following:

The one-day Advisory Committee symposia will use a similar format to the Pretoria Global Climate Change symposium including breakout sessions with the SC identifying issues related to each ISC in order to develop recommendations.

Proceedings from each symposium will contribute to *Heritage at Risk* publication.

Theme chairs:

- Devise a scientific content committee to develop each theme.
- Develop draft 1-to-3-page brief/position papers for each theme to post on the listserv for ISCs to express interest and become involved.
- Circulate to team for comment and develop briefs for listserv and negotiations with ISCs.

Proposed Themes: Building on the Global Change theme of the 2009-11 triennium, and given the fact that 2008 marked the first year that more people lived in urban areas than in the countryside and that there are at least ten mega-cities (population over 10 million) which are going to be severely affected by rising ocean levels due to global climate change, we propose the following:

2012 **Heritage of the Rural Countryside**

Covers topics such as the roots of settlement, community, village, ex-urbs, definition and evolution of cultural landscapes, shift of human population from rural to city, environmental and climate change, abandonment, modernization and progress, rural lifestyles, anti-urban, self-sufficiency, natural landscapes, use and abuse, vernacular, authenticity, intangible heritage, etc.

2013 **Heritage of the Urbs/Polis**

Covers topics such as small-to-medium-sized city, cultural landscapes, vernacular, economic blight, revival from IT, suburban takeover, climate change, community and identity, sustainability, authenticity, etc.

2015 **Heritage of The [Metro]Polis/[Megalo]Polis** – the post-GA symposium will bring together the three types of cultural landscapes of human habitation: [rural, villages and small towns, metropolis].

Covers topics such as infrastructure, industrial heritage, population mobility, development, gentrification, chaos and anarchy, HULs, sustainable planning and control, unplanned expansion, urban renewal, tension and dialogue, dual economies, sub-cultures and ethnic neighbourhoods, multi-valency, climate change, etc.