

Preserving the Past, Envisioning the Future: Libya's Heritage in Focus

A Collaborative Workshop organised by MarEA, King's College London, and BILNAS

Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2026

Time: 14:00–17:30 (followed by drinks reception)

Venue: King's College London, Macadam Building MB4.2

Overview

This workshop celebrates Libya's rich archaeological and cultural heritage through presentations highlighting current fieldwork, heritage protection projects, and collaborative research initiatives.

The event brings together Libyan and international experts to reflect on ongoing achievements and to explore future approaches integrating technology, inclusivity, and sustainable heritage management.

14:00–14:05 | Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Recorded message from **Dr Mohamed Faraj, Chairman of the Libyan Department of Antiquities**

14:05–15:05 | Session I: Libya's Heritage Today - Current Projects and Emerging Practices

Chair: Ahmed Buzaian

Focus: Ongoing archaeological, heritage, and documentation projects that are redefining approaches to preservation, engagement, and education in Libya.

1. **14:05-14:30**
Will Wootton, Hiba Alkhalaf and Hafed Walda (Kings College London)
The Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage project
2. **14:30-15:55**
Julia Nikolaus, Nick Ray (Ulster University), Ahmad Emrage (University of Benghazi), Saad Buyadeem (University of Al Bayda),
Developing Capacities in Marine Cultural Heritage Management and Protection
3. **15:55-15:05**
Moderated discussion synthesising shared methodologies, challenges, and outcomes across current Libyan heritage initiatives.

Short Break 15:05-15:10

15:10–16:10 | Session II: Libya’s Heritage Today - Current Projects and Emerging Practices

Chair: Julia Nikolaus

Focus: Ongoing archaeological, heritage, and documentation projects that are redefining approaches to preservation, engagement, and education in Libya.

1. 15:10-15:25

Charlotte Roueché (King’s College London), Gabby Bodard (ICS) and Caroline Barron (University of Durham): *Digital epigraphy in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica and the Heritage Gazetteer of Libya*

2. 15:25-15:40

Hiba Alkhalaf (Kings College London), Will Raynolds (Baana B.V.) and Ahmad Emrage (University of Benghazi): *Survey on Organisational Capacity in Heritage Preservation across the MENA Region: Preliminary Findings*

3. 15:40-15:55

John Darlington (World Monuments Fund): *Historic Benghazi and the Barah Cultural Centre for Art*

4. Nichole Sheldrick and/or Ahmed Mahmoud (University of Leicester): *Training and Collaboration in Automated Change Detection Methods for Heritage Monitoring in Libya*

5. Discussion (15:55–16:10)

Moderated discussion synthesising shared methodologies, challenges, and outcomes across current Libyan heritage initiatives.

Short Break 16:10-16:20

16:20–17:30 | Session II: Libya’s Heritage Tomorrow — Prospects and Future Directions

Chair: Will Wootton

Focus: Envisioning the future of Libyan heritage through innovation, inclusion, and sustainable management strategies.

1. 16:20-16:35

Mona Habeb (Cultural Protection Fund): *The Cultural Protection Fund in Libya and community engagement through working with children and young people*

2. **16:35-16:50** (recorded)

Feryal Sharfeddin (DoA): *The value of the DoA's archive and the opening of the refurbished museum*

3. **16:50-17:00**

Isra Mohammed and Sheima Sharkarsi (University of Benghazi): *Women in Libyan Archaeology: Voices, Visibility, and the Future*

4. **Concluding discussion (17:00-17:30)**

Chaired by **Hafed Walda (Kings College London)** **Ahmad Buzaian (University of Leicester)** and **Charlotte Rouche (Kings College London)** on *Integrating Past Achievements and Future Visions*

17:30 | Drinks Reception