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| Institution: University of Oxford | | |
| Unit of Assessment: 29 Classics | | |
| Title of case study: Ancient Art and Architecture: Cultural Heritage Preservation, Education and Community Engagement | | |
| Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2002-2019 | | |
| Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit: | | |
| Name(s): | Role(s) (e.g. job title): | Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: |
| Dr Judith McKenzie† Dr Jacopo Gnisci | Associate Professor Research Associate | 2002–May 2019 Jan 2019–Sept 2019 |
| Period when the claimed impact occurred: November 2016–December 2020 | | |
| Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N | | |
| <p>1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)</p> <p>This case study describes impact related to three projects on ancient architecture directed by Judith McKenzie. The Khirbet et-Tannur Nabataean Temple Project resulted in the production of educational materials and assistance in the repatriation of material from the site to Jordan. The publication of <i>The Garima Gospels</i> increased awareness of these late antique Ethiopian texts, and brought new audiences into contact with them through activities related to the Bodleian Libraries' Ge'ez collections. Resources from the Manar al-Athar open-access photo-archive have been used by government departments and NGOs to document endangered heritage in the Middle East and North Africa.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)</p> <p>Judith McKenzie directed three strands of work related to the architecture and artistic forms in the ancient Mediterranean world: the Khirbet et-Tannur Nabataean Temple Project, analysis of the Garima Gospels, and development of the Manar al-Athar open-access photo-archive. Her unexpected death in May 2019 resulted in the final stages of planned work being overseen by others and to some changes in direction.</p> <p>Khirbet et-Tannur is a hilltop temple (2nd century BCE–4/6th century CE) 70 km north of Petra in Jordan, with a local design but classical architectural sculpture. The site was excavated in 1937, but the excavator's reports were never published and the non-sculptural finds were never assessed or published. The project, using an international team directed by McKenzie, analyzed the material and published the results. McKenzie's work on the project was supported by a British Academy Small Research Grant. Two volumes of <i>The Nabataean Temple at Khirbet et-Tannur</i>, published in 2013 [R1 and 2], reported exceptionally well-preserved carbonized cult offerings and vessels, which provided a unique insight into ancient religious practice. The reports provide new information directly relevant to understanding the religion, history, and culture of the Hellenistic and Roman East.</p> <p>The Garima Gospels are the earliest surviving Ethiopian gospel books, and include lavishly illustrated canon tables and portraits of the Evangelists. In 2015, the first joint analysis of the texts and images was undertaken by McKenzie and Biblical text scholar Francis Watson (Durham University). The resulting publication, <i>The Garima Gospels</i> (2016) [R3], demonstrated how a distinctively Ethiopian Christian art and culture developed in the 6th century CE, and set these developments within the broader context of late antiquity.</p> <p>Under McKenzie's direction, a volume of essays on the Ge'ez collections of the Bodleian Libraries, <i>The Treasures of Ethiopia and Eritrea</i> (2019) [R4], was edited by Jacopo Gnisci. The publication was completed as part of the ERC Advanced Grant 'Monumental Art of the Christian and Early Islamic East: Cultural Identities and Classical Heritage' (PI: McKenzie). Following McKenzie's death, an exhibition and related outreach activities in collaboration with the Bodleian</p> | | |

Libraries were seen to completion by Gnisci. As a result of interest generated by these activities, the first ever catalogue of the Juel-Jensen collection of Ge'ez manuscripts in the Bodleian Libraries is now being prepared by Gnisci and Dorothea Reule (University of Hamburg). The Manar al-Athar open-access photo-archive [R5] provides freely available high-resolution, searchable images of archaeological sites, buildings and art in the regions of the Roman Empire which subsequently came under Islamic rule. The archive is used for teaching, research, publication, and heritage work. Initial development, by McKenzie in collaboration with Neil McLynn (Classics, Oxford), was supported by the Leverhulme Trust (2011–2016), and further development was supported by a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (PI: McKenzie), and the ERC Advanced Grant “Monumental Art of the Christian and Early Islamic East: Cultural Identities and Classical Heritage” (2016–2020) (PI: McKenzie). Development of the photo-archive has continued following McKenzie's death, overseen by Ine Jacobs (Archaeology, Classics and History, Oxford) and Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis (The Graduate Center, the City University of New York). In October 2020, the photo-archive had c. 76 000 photographs, from more than forty contributors, online, including photographs of structures subsequently damaged by development and/or conflict.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

- R1.** [Authored Book, available on request] J. McKenzie *et al.* (2013), *The Nabataean Temple at Khirbet et-Tannur. Volume 1: Architecture and Religion*, Boston MA. ISBN: 9780897570350 [Book of 5 chapters, 3 chapters authored by McKenzie, 2 chapters co-authored by McKenzie.]
- R2.** [Authored Book] J. McKenzie *et al.* (2013), *The Nabataean Temple at Khirbet et-Tannur. Volume 2: Cultic Offerings, Vessels, and Other Specialist Reports*, Boston MA. ISBN: 9780897570367 [Book of 13 chapters, 3 chapters authored by McKenzie, 3 chapters co-authored by McKenzie]. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/43959041.pdf>
- R3.** [Authored Book, listed in REF2] J. McKenzie and F. Watson *et al.* (2016), *The Garima Gospels: Early Illuminated Gospel Books from Ethiopia*, Oxford. ISBN: 9780995494602 [Book of 11 chapters, introduction and 5 chapters authored by McKenzie, 1 chapter co-authored by McKenzie.]
- R4.** [Edited Book] J. Gnisci (2019 ed.), *Treasures of Ethiopia and Eritrea in the Bodleian Library, Oxford*, Oxford. ISBN: 9780995494657 [Book of 12 chapters, 2 chapters authored by Gnisci, 2 chapters co-authored by Gnisci, Preface by McKenzie]. <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:24d3e531-863c-4c39-8d8b-ba331f769788>
- R5.** [Website Content] Manar al-Athar open-access photo-archive: <http://www.manar-al-athar.ox.ac.uk>

Key research grants:

- Judith McKenzie (PI) 'Monumental Art of the Christian and Early Islamic East: Cultural Identities and Classical Heritage', ERC Advanced Grant, EUR2,350,533, September 2016 – August 2021. Grant number: AdG-2015-694105.
As a result of the PI's death in May 2019, the above grant was curtailed, ending prematurely at the end of August 2020. For the period June 2019 – August 2020, the grant was overseen by Bryan Ward-Perkins (Emeritus Professor of Late Antique History, Oxford).
- Neil McLynn (PI: Oxford), 'Late Antique Egypt and the Holy Land: Archaeology, History and Religious Change', Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant, GBP334,741, September 2011 – February 2016. Grant number: F/09 892/A. Director: Judith McKenzie.
- Judith McKenzie (PI) 'Alexandria Digital Archive – Scanning Photographs for Open-Access Web Publication', British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, GBP6,992.00, April 2013 – May 2015.
- Judith McKenzie (PI) British Academy Small Research Grant 2009, GBP5,687.

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Documentation and preservation of cultural heritage

Manar al-Athar [R5] resources have been used by government agencies and NGOs to document endangered heritage. The photo-archive is one of six resources listed by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan as being useful to researchers working on the history and archaeology of the region [E1] and its photographs have been used by the Petra National Trust (Jordan) as a baseline for monitoring site degradation, with the Petra National Trust (PNT) President commenting: '[Manar al-Athar] has been invaluable in our efforts to document changes over time in the archaeological landscape of Petra and other sites in Jordan. We have used the database...for our advocacy efforts to promote the preservation and sustainable use of the site' [E2].

In 2018, sculptural pieces from Khirbet et-Tannur were obtained by an art dealer from the estate of a Spanish diplomat and collector. While they are known to have been held in Jordan for a period during the 20th century, it remains unclear how they left the country and came to be in Spain. McKenzie was instrumental in their return to Jordan where they will be displayed in the Jordan Museum. Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas said: 'We are grateful to Dr Judith McKenzie and Diego López de Aragón for their collaboration and their critical role in repatriating these important pieces to Jordan. This outcome stands as a successful example of cooperation among governments, the private sector, and civil society to honor the country-origin of archaeological pieces.' [E3.2]

Cultural heritage education

A booklet, '*A Gem of a Small Nabataean Temple*', prepared under McKenzie's direction by Marlena Whiting (Classics, Oxford, 2014–2015) and Hannah Wellman (PhD student, University of Oregon), provides general information on Khirbet et-Tannur for students, tourists and the public. The booklet, in English (2016) and Arabic (2018, translated by Diana Sayegh), is freely available online. Copies of the Arabic version were provided to the PNT for use in their Education and Engagement Program. The Trust's Education, Outreach and Awareness Manager commented that the programme: 'targets children in the communities surrounding the Petra Site, and aims to instil a sense of identity and pride in Petra's cultural and natural heritage, and inspire a commitment to preserving and protecting Petra's significance and values. Prof. McKenzie's research has been included in the instructor's kit for the age groups of (7-9) and (10-12)' [E4]

Users from c.100 countries have accessed Manar al-Athar since 2017, with approximately 18% of users located in MENA countries. Arabic/English labelling has made Manar al-Athar's images widely accessible in this region, with the PNT President commenting: 'Very few academic or teaching resources are available in both a European and non-European language ... The Manar al-Athar database is a useful resource for university students in Jordan', and that 'I have also received letters from schoolteachers [in Jordan] acknowledging the value of the Manar al-Athar database for their teaching' [E2]. Manar al-Athar has an active presence on Twitter, sharing the cultural heritage of MENA countries and its endangered status with non-academic audiences. The account averages more than 100,000 impressions per month and responses to it include: 'one of the most fascinating I've come across' [E5].

Widening audience engagement

More than 1,000 people attended the photo-exhibition, 'The Hidden Gospels of Abba Garima, Treasures of the Ethiopian Highlands', based on *The Garima Gospels* [R3]. The exhibition, held at the Faculty of Classics (5 November 2016–12 April 2017), was curated by McKenzie, Foteini Spingou (Classics, Oxford, 2016–2018) and Miranda Williams (Classics, Oxford). 84% of those who signed the exhibition guestbook left comments, indicating a high level of engagement. Comments emphasised that the exhibition had made academic research accessible to the public: 'An enthralling exhibition, a wonderful thing to share with town and general public, beautifully explained' [E6].

Research on the Garima Gospels led to the Bodleian Libraries' first community co-curated exhibition, 'Languages of God: Sacred Scripts of Ethiopia and Eritrea' (Weston Library, 27 July 2019–13 October 2019) [R4] and to related community-involved outreach events. The community co-curation project involved members of the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities from Oxford, London and Milton Keynes. Written feedback was appreciative: 'The co-curation project offered opportunities to bring people of Ethiopian and Eritrean origins to work together on

a common cultural heritage, and to inspire the young generation from these communities to know more about the languages and religious and historical literature of their ancestors' [E7]. An 'Ethiopian Manuscript Discovery Day' at the Weston Library in July 2018 (organized by the Bodleian Libraries, in collaboration with McKenzie), and a study day at the Faculty of Classics in September 2018 (organized by McKenzie, Gnisci and Miranda Williams), drew community involvement, and community awareness of, and interest in, Ethiopian and Eritrean Christianity and Ge'ez. Surveys conducted at these events indicated that 69% and 74% of respondents, respectively, were likely to find out more about Ethiopian and Eritrean Christianity; and 62% and 69%, respectively, were likely to find out more about Ge'ez script [E7].

These events raised community awareness of African manuscripts held by British libraries (70% of survey respondents at the 'Discovery Day' had previously been unaware that the Bodleian Libraries held Ge'ez manuscripts) [E7], and contributed to debate on the position of African artefacts held by British institutions. An article in *Toward a Global Middle Ages* (2019), noted: 'In other cases, the exhibitions have set aside the history of the acquisitions, focusing instead ...on the contemporary connections of the Ethiopian and Eritrean diaspora in England to the cultural patrimony now held in British institutions (in the case of the Bodleian)' [E8].

A trustee of the Ethiopian Heritage Fund, a British charity committed to promoting Ethiopia's artistic heritage, conveyed a copy of *The Garima Gospels* [R3] to the Monastery of Abba Garima in Ethiopia and reported that: 'we met with the Abbott [sic] and the Treasurer to hand over the book. They were thrilled and told me that it would be made available to visitors' [E9].

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

- E1. Database from the Department of Antiquities of Jordan [in Arabic, accessed 31 December 2020]: www.doa.gov.jo/contents/Databases.aspx
- E2. Letter from the President of Petra National Trust and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, 12 August 2020.
- E3. Selected news reports on the return of Khirbet et-Tannur sculptural pieces to Jordan:
 - 3.1 Maev Kennedy, 'Spanish art dealer returns carved stones from a Nabataean Temple to Jordan', *The Art Newspaper*, 5 February 2019
 - 3.2 University of Oxford news and events webpage, 5 February 2019
 - 3.3 Petra National Trust Latest News webpage 'Spanish art dealer returns carved stones from a Nabataean Temple to Jordan,' 19 February 2019 [in Arabic]
- E4. Emails from Education, Outreach and Awareness Manager, Petra National Trust, July 2020.
- E5. Evaluation of social media engagement:
 - 5.1 Twitter analytics to September 2020
 - 5.2 Screenshot of Twitter comment, 16 April 2017
- E6. Exhibition guest book from 'The Hidden Gospels of Abba Garima, Treasures of the Ethiopian Highlands'; prefaced by a summary of data.
- E7. Feedback from co-curation project and related events:
 - 7.1 Summary of Feedback from Co-Curation Project, 6 August 2019
 - 7.2 Summary of Survey Forms from 'Ethiopian and Eritrean Ge'ez Manuscripts Discovery Day', 18 July 2018
 - 7.3 Feedback questionnaire responses from Co-Curation Project
 - 7.4 Summary of Survey forms from the 'Introducing Manuscripts from Ethiopia and Eritrea' study day', 1 September 2018
 - 7.5 Survey forms from the 'Introducing Manuscripts from Ethiopia and Eritrea' study day', 1 September 2018
- E8. S. Conklin Akbari, 'Where is Medieval Ethiopia? Mapping Ethiopic Studies within Medieval Studies,' in B. C. Keene (2019 ed.), *Toward a Global Middle Ages: Encountering the World Through Illuminated Manuscripts*, Los Angeles, p. 80-91. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c0699ff365f02ec864a8200/t/5c700839104c7b6ae28b6def/1550846010310/Akbari+Medieval+Ethiopia+Getty.pdf>
- E9. Email from trustee, Anglo-Ethiopian Society, 6 March 2017.