

# **The Age of Experience: Cultural Heritage and the Future of Museums**

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This presentation examines new paradigms for developing embodied museum experiences. Using heterogeneous datasets representing intangible and tangible heritage, the talk explores interactive applications inside a series of fully immersive visualization systems.

Imaging data at world heritage sites is fundamental to archaeological, conservation and preservation processes. And although this high-resolution data is accumulating daily in the archives of practitioners little of it finds its way into the public domain. Large-scale display systems offer the opportunity for this data to be experienced at one-to-one-scale in the form of augmented digital facsimiles. Such an approach has a significant impact on visitors' cognition and also provides a powerful alternative for giving access to heritage sites under threat from tourism, conflict and climate change. At the same time the visitors to museums are increasingly interested in intuitively exploring and re-using the large digital datasets created through heritage documentation. This desire for creative engagement poses significant experimental and theoretical challenges for the museums sector. *The Age of Experience* engages cultural heritage data in contemporary museum discourses and future interpretation practices.

The installations described in this lecture include the world heritage sites of Angkor in Cambodia, Dunhuang in Gansu Province China, the Monuments at Hampi in South India and numerous sites throughout Turkey. The research discussed also involves visualization of cultural collections from the web-based WW1 archives of Europeana (the world's largest online cultural collection) to 100,000 objects from Museum Victoria, Melbourne in the world's largest data browser. Two works based on Pacifying of the South China Sea Pirates' scroll recently premiered at Maritime Museum, Hong Kong (2013) will also be described, alongside new initiatives in the 3D documentation of the living archives of South Chinese Kung Fu.