Contributor’s biographies for ‘Comparing Approaches, Values and Philosophies in Conservation and World Heritage in China and the UK’

Caroline Dinenage, Minister of State for Digital and Culture

Caroline Dinenage was appointed Minister of State for Digital and Culture in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 13 February 2020.

Caroline was Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care from 9 January 2018 to 13 February 2020 and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions from June 2017 to January 2018.

She was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years at the Department for Education from July 2016 to June 2017.

Caroline was elected Conservative MP for Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head in 2010. Between 1998 and 2003 Caroline served on the City of Winchester local council. She was appointed the Small Business Ambassador for the South by the Prime Minister in June 2013, and between 2012 and 2015 sat on the House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee.

From April 2014 to May 2015 Caroline served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP. From May 2015 to July 2016 she served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice at the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Education.

Caroline studied politics and English at Swansea University and has more than 20 years of experience as a small business owner, having established her own manufacturing company before university.

Xinchao Song Ph.D.

Xinchao Song is the Deputy Director-general of National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA) and President of ICOMOS China.

He graduated from Northwest University for Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in History, and obtained his doctoral degree from Chinese Academy of Social Science in 1987. From 1991 to 1994, he was assistant researcher and associate researcher of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Science. In 1995, he was Deputy Director of Second Division of Officers, Personnel Bureau, Chinese Academy of Social Science.

From 1997 to 2003, he was Director of Archaeological Management Division, Director, Director and Counsel of Heritage Conservation Department, National Administration of Cultural Heritage. In 2005, he was Director of Museum and Social Archaeological Department, National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA). In Feb. 2012, he became Deputy Director-general of National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA). In 2017, he was elected President of ICOMOS China.
Matt Burney, Director British Council China

Matt Burney is the Director of the British Council in China, where he oversees the United Kingdom’s cultural relations and educational exchange work. He was appointed to the role in September 2019 to lead one of the largest country operations in the British Council’s global network of 100+ offices.

Matt has held numerous strategic leadership positions since joining the British Council in 1997, promoting cultural and educational opportunities in Japan, the Czech Republic and Ireland.

In 2000, Matt spearheaded the British Council’s expansion of cultural and education work in South West China. This included the establishment of a South West China office in Chongqing. From 2010 to 2015, he was Area Director East China, based in Shanghai. During this time he oversaw the growth of a dynamic and ambitious programme driven through close collaboration and partnership with UK and Chinese cultural and educational organisations. This culminated in the creation of the British Centre, that brought together the UK’s cultural actors in one place in China.

Co-Chair Tony Crouch, Chair of Trustees, World Heritage UK

Tony Crouch is Chair of Trustees for World Heritage UK, a role he undertakes alongside his position as World Heritage Manager for the City of Bath, South West England. He is a chartered Town planner and historic building conservator, with extensive experience in applying the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in complex urban settings. The City of Bath is a rare example of an entire urban area covered by a World Heritage inscription, necessitating a constant balance between conservation of outstanding heritage alongside the needs of a modern, living city.

Tony also leads the Great Spas of Europe tentative trans-national World Heritage nomination on behalf of Bath. He has had pleasure in welcoming Chinese colleagues taking part in World Heritage UK conferences for several years, plus he was an external expert at the First Creative Asia Forum at Kulangsu tentative World Heritage Site in 2016, and visited Beijing and Xi’an with a high level British Council delegation in 2017.
Co-Chair Prof. JIANG Bo

Professor of Shandong University, Vice-President of ICOMOS and ICOMOS China, Heritage expert of Chinese State Council, Advisor to Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology, and to National Cultural Heritage Administration of China.

After receiving his PhD degree from the Archaeology Department of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Prof. Jiang has worked in the National Institute of Archaeology and focused on the archaeological research and excavation of ancient Chinese capital sites, underwater archaeology and world cultural heritage; From 2013 to 2019, he acted as director of National Institute of Underwater Archaeology and launched a series of important maritime projects like Nanhai I Shipwreck, and organized international archaeology excavation project of Sea Port Al Serrian in Saudi Arabia. He also worked in Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, and visited Harvard University and American National Gallery of Art as visiting scholar. Prof. Jiang published a series of excellent work, his major publications include: The Archaeological Discovery and Research of Ancient Chinese Capital (2016), Chinese Archaeology: Qinhan Period(2010), Chinese archaeology: discoveries and achievements (1949~2009)(2010), A Study on Ritual Architectures of the Han-tang Period Capitals(2003), etc.

Donald Hankey RIBA, FSA, FRAI

Donald Hankey is founder of GHK, a consultancy of architects, planners, engineers, economists and sociologists, specialising in public policy, international development, institutional strengthening and project management. A specialist in cultural heritage and its significance, and viability, Donald Hankey has worked in many continents and for twenty years until 2012 as a consultant for the World Bank in China on Historic regions, World Heritage Sites and cities - The Great Wall at Jiumenkou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Qufu, LJiang, Leshan Great Buddha, Chongqing etc.

He was vice President and then President of ICOMOS-UK for 10 years until 2013.

He is also an international board member of the new World Research Travel Organisation based in Leshan.

He promotes the international sharing of skills and experience through ICOMOS and WHUK. Like great Chinese World Heritage Sites, we learn better by understanding our different strengths, in technical and management policy. The Houses of Parliament could well be a subject of fascinating study.
Prof. LYU Zhou

Prof. Lyu Zhou is director and professor of National Heritage Center of Tsinghua University, in Beijing. He is the vice President of ICOMOS-CHINA and the president of Architectural History Institute in China Architecture Society. He was also the vice president of China Forbidden City Society.

Since 1980’s, he has been working in the field of architectural heritage conservation. He is leading professor of World Heritage in China. He has been in charge of many conservation projects, management and conservation master plans. His project Conservation of Er-wang Temple after Earthquake received the highest award for conservation in China, 2011; Conservation and Utilization of “Gongziting” (an ancient garden) in Beijing,


In 2005, for his contribution on the exchange and co-operation between China and Italy, the President of Italy conferred him “Ha Coferto l’Onorificenza di Cavaliere”.

In 2013, ICCROM general assembly offered him ICCROM Award as recognition of his contribution to protection of cultural heritage.

Professor Dr Mike Robinson

Mike Robinson is full Professor of Cultural Heritage at the University of Birmingham, UK and Director of the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage – a longstanding, unique partnership with the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust - Europe’s largest independent museum. He was previously Founder and Director of the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change. For 30 years Mike’s work has focused upon the relations between heritage, tourism, culture and how these realms intersect. Recent research focuses on World Heritage and Sustainable Development, Third Line Construction Heritage in China and Industrial Heritage and Regeneration.

He is an advisor to the UNESCO World Heritage Programme in Sustainable Tourism and principal consultant to the UNESCO World Heritage European Journeys Project. He was a Government appointed member of the UK’s Expert Panel to determine the UK’s Tentative List for World Heritage and has worked with UNESCO offices in China, South East Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and various parts of Europe. Mike has worked on heritage and tourism related projects in over 40 countries with UNESCO, European Commission, Council of Europe and various State Agencies and NGOs.
Prof. ZHANG Jie

Prof Zhang is Dean of School of Architecture and Urban Planning of Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture; Professor of School of Architecture of Tsinghua University; National Master of Architectural and Engineering Design and Investigation; President of ICOMOS CIVVIH (International Scientific Committee of Historic Towns and Villages) Asia-Pacific Sub Committee; President of ICOMOS China-CIVVIH.

Professor Zhang Jie has been researching, teaching and practicing in the field of heritage conservation and sustainable development for a long period of time. He plays an important role in a number of professional organizations, including Chinese Society of Cultural Relics, Architectural Society of China, China Association of City Planning, etc.

Professor Zhang has completed a large number of research and design projects of National level, and won various awards, including the UNESCO Asian Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation Award in 2017, the Innovation Prize of China Ministry of Culture in 2009, and National excellent Urban and Rural Planning and Design 1st Prize in 2013, 2015 and 2020.

Rehana Mughal

Rehana is the Director Arts, British Council in China. In this role, she oversees a diverse and impactful portfolio of activity designed to connect individuals and organisations from the UK and China to opportunities that build connections, capability and appreciation through and for the arts.

Rehana has over 25 years’ experience working in the arts sector both in the UK and internationally. Before coming to China she led the delivery of an ambitious multi-million pound cultural programme for the British Council in the Gulf Cooperation Countries.

Prior to working with British Council, she worked for Creativity, Culture and Education, an international arts education foundation, where she led on a £300 million Creative Partnerships programme.

She spent six years working with Arts Council England developing collaborative cultural projects working with artists, theatres, museums, galleries, government departments and teachers in the UK.

Rehana graduated from the Slade School of Art at University College London with a Master’s degree in Fine Art Sculpture and later gained a second Master’s degree in Museum Studies.