ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Heritage, Mapping, and Identity: Digitally Investigating the Archaeological and Cultural Landscapes in Imperial Cartography of the Levant

WARMINSKI A. [1]*

[1] University of Exeter; Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Twentieth century archaeological research in the Levant coincided with, and actively contributed to, increased cartographic coverage of the region. Imperial countries mapped the modern nations of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan from when they were Ottoman territories through their Mandatory periods until their independences as nation-states. This doctoral research employs a digital methodology utilizing open-source computer visualization software and deep learning techniques to examine the archaeological and cultural (heritage) information contained within Levantine historical map series from differing archives and libraries. This is done for two reasons: firstly, to trace the evolution, and introduction, of cartographic heritage information through successive map series from different time periods, cartographers, and governments; and secondly, to investigate how this cartographic evolution contributed to the development of national identity in the region and/or vice versa. This poster will present the methodological workflow and initial results of this ongoing doctoral research to begin contextualizing the cyclical relationship between heritage, mapping, and national identity and demonstrate the importance of digital archival work in studying the long-lasting impacts of archaeological research.

Keywords

Cartography, Digital Methods, Levant, Heritage

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