

HERITAGE AND IDENTITY: SETTING UP A NEW PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT...

July 29, 2016 Chiara Bonacchi Explore
Posts Archaeology, Britain, Crowdsourcing, Data, digital, ethnography, Heritage, Iron Age, medieval, Public archaeology, Roman

Despite a broken ankle, life goes on. Today I am working on the set-up of a new project I have just started at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, in London, UK, with colleagues Prof. [Richard Hingley](#) and Dr. [Tom Yarrow](#) from the Archaeology and Anthropology Departments at Durham University.



Broken but scooter-aided researcher (me) goes to work.

This is a really exciting new adventure, especially in these times of heated debate over what it means to be English, British, European or (as I regard myself) simply (?) a world citizen with roots in all those great and diverse places where you are lucky enough to have family, friends and colleagues.

The project is called '[Iron Age and Roman Heritages: Exploring ancient identities in modern Britain](#)', and is funded by the [UK Arts and Humanities Research Council](#) for a period of three years. Through this research we are hoping to understand how Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval pasts live in present-day Britain. How are they researched, variously used, performed and interpreted by different individuals and groups, and why? What are the implications?

The project is divided in two parts which will run in parallel until 2019. One is based at UCL, where I will be focussing on the analysis of digital heritages ([Dan Pett](#), from the British Museum, [Andy Bevan](#) and [Mark Altaweel](#), from UCL, are also helping!); the second part, led by Richard and Tom in Durham, is centred on offline ethnography.

During the project, we will also invite whoever might be interested in participating in our research to do so online, through the [MicroPasts](#) crowdsourcing website, which is indeed still up, running ... and busy! In October, I will visit [Daniel Lombrana-Gonzales](#) and his team, in Madrid, and, together, we will create a new crowdsourcing application to aid the analysis of web data. People will be able to login and identify (via tagging) the aspects of Iron Age and Roman pasts that appear in a range of texts that are published online like newspaper or magazine articles, for example.

So, stay on the look, we'd love you to join the team!

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