

CultureCache: Documenting diasporic belonging and intergenerational memory through participatory digital heritage

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ABSTRACT

This workshop is grounded in a simple but urgent idea: that cultural heritage should not be dictated from above, but co-created from lived experience. It lives in the stories we carry, the objects we cherish, the languages we speak, and the memories we protect—especially those shaped by migration, movement, and multiplicity. Together, these fragments form the foundation of a more inclusive, more human history—one authored by all of us.

As part of a master thesis in Sustainable Heritage Management at Aarhus University, this session introduces *CultureCache*, a participatory archive platform designed not to collect heritage, but to return narrative agency to communities whose histories are too often left out of official records.

Participants are invited to bring (or select) personally meaningful objects—such as family items, migration mementos, or everyday things connected to memory and identity. Using the platform, they can record oral histories, take photographs, create 3D renders, or document stories in their own language and style. The goal is not digital output, but democratic authorship: an inclusive, community-driven record of human experience.

Participants can choose to be guided through the process by facilitators or use Orbi, an AI conversational assistant. The platform includes features like event creation, archive search, and cultural tagging allowing for broader engagement—participants might, for example, explore shared heritage between countries, or search for similar traditions across the world.

The workshop ends with an open reflection on the experience and (optional) interviews. As a gesture of recognition, participants receive digital art badges linked to local cultural institutions based on where and how they contribute.

This workshop is not about technology—it's about voice, memory, and participation. It invites youth, migrants, and intergenerational participants to shape the cultural record on their own terms, building a shared, living archive that reflects the full diversity of who we are.

CVs

Cláudia Ribeiro is a Sustainable Heritage Management master's student at Aarhus University with a background in Art History. Her experience spans heritage communication, exhibition design, and creating educational and community-based cultural content. She has worked across teaching, tourism, and participatory research, focusing on inclusive approaches to memory and identity. Currently, she co-develops *CultureCache*, a mobile and AI-supported platform that enables diasporic and underrepresented communities to document and share their heritage.

Penda Svane is a full-stack developer passionate about human-centered design and immersive technologies. His work focuses on creating intuitive digital experiences. With experience in AI integration, 3D modeling, and participatory web applications, he co-develops *CultureCache*, where he leads backend infrastructure and interactive system architecture. His background includes virtual and augmented reality development, educational content delivery, and frontend systems for civic and SaaS platforms. He is committed to building ethical, inclusive technologies that enhance how communities engage with memory, identity, and storytelling across borders.