

EVENING LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, 29.04.2025, 7.00 pm
Zentralcampus\HSB (ZHG)

Dr.-Ing. Katja Piesker

KulturGutRetter

Developing an emergency response unit for cultural heritage in times of crisis

Natural disasters, extreme weather events resulting from climate change, and man-made disasters are threatening cultural heritage worldwide. When disaster strikes, time is of the essence. Rapid and practical help is needed. It must be limited to the most important measures and aim to prevent further damage. The German Archaeological Institute (DAI), the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), and the Leibniz Centre for Archaeology (LEIZA, formerly RGZM) are developing an air-deployable response unit to provide immediate assistance to cultural heritage in the event of such incidents. The Cultural Heritage Response Unit (CHRU) can protect and preserve cultural assets quickly and efficiently thanks to defined standard procedures, specially designed modular equipment, including an emergency conservation laboratory, and well-trained experts. The essential basis for this is the affected nation's international request for assistance.



Dr.-Ing. Katja Piesker, Head of the Division of Building Archaeology and Deputy Director of the Berlin Head Office of the German Archaeological Institute, has conducted archaeological-architectural research at various historical sites in Turkey. With a focus on "cultural heritage under pressure", she is currently directing the KulturGutRetter-project aiming at developing an air-deployable response unit to provide immediate assistance to cultural heritage in crisis situations.