

# COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE FIRST CATARACT OF THE NILE

**August 24 - September 13, 2015**

The interdisciplinary summer school Cultural and Natural Heritage on the First Cataract of the Nile was a unique opportunity for a group of eighteen students from Aswan and Cologne: not only were they introduced to current discussions on heritage studies and the rich heritage of the Aswan region, they were also involved in some explorative field research.

The summer school was planned and organized by members of the University of Cologne forum Cultural Heritage in Africa and Asia, the Egyptology Department, and the IMES Master Program, in collaboration with colleagues from Aswan University, Nubia Museum Aswan, and the Protected Areas Office Aswan. During the first week in Cologne, students were taught the basics of cultural and natural heritage as well as aspects of heritage and environmental law on international, national and local/traditional levels. They were also introduced to some of the key concepts in the current discourse on heritage, such as identity formation or cultural and historical urban landscapes as the integration of nature and culture. The lectures were given by members of the University of Cologne as well as guest lecturers from Cairo, Durham and Paris. A trip to the World Heritage Site, the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, gave participants the chance to experience a heritage landscape at first hand

while also profiting from the practical knowledge of a heritage manager. The second and third weeks of the program took place in Egypt, mainly in the World Heritage region of Aswan. This began with a day exploring the World Heritage city of Cairo, where many new insights into the entwined character of culture and nature were gained. Visits to some well-known sites such as the temples of Abu Simbel or to protected areas, but also engagement with Nubian heritage and private initiatives on community or individual levels, proved to be valuable expe-





periences of heritage in practice. The heritage research methodologies the students were introduced to where then put to the test, with small mixed groups carrying out field research on topics such as Cultural Landscape and Identity, Nubian Heritage in Practice, Heritage and Tourism, and Camel Trade from the South.

The whole program proved to be extremely intense but successful and was well received by the students, who appreciated both the academic and practical program as well as the intercultural exchange. Everyone agreed that the program should be continued in a similar fashion in the future. For more information:

[www.afrikanistik.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/summerschool.html](http://www.afrikanistik.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/summerschool.html)