Developing a digital archive for symbolic resources in urban environments – the Latina Project
Dr Gareth Cole
Who was involved?

- **Two researchers**
  - Rob Harland – Lecturer in Visual Communication: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/aed/staff/academic/robert-harland/
  - Antonia Liguori - Research Associate in Applied Digital Storytelling: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/aed/staff/academic/antonia-liguori/

- **Two Library staff**
  - Gareth Cole – Research Data Manager: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/library/students/about/librystaff/gareth-cole/
  - Barbara Whetnall – Academic Librarian: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/library/students/about/librystaff/barbara-whetnall/

- **Two PhD students**
Background

• Harland wished to share his data more widely
  – Wasn’t sure how
• Conversations started re. a large externally funded project
• Additional internally funded project led to this archive
Creating the project archive

• Utilised the Loughborough Data Repository
• Deliberately small proof of concept c10 images
• Images chosen by Harland with input from Library staff
• Macro to micro choice in the images
Metadata needs and approaches

• Mandatory fields on DR
• Additional fields needed – these evolved over time
  – File format; Camera type; Geographic location; Date (later amended to Date of image and Date of object)
• Gaps in documentation identified
  – E.g. size of image BUT effect on research methodology?
• How many and what keywords?
• Discoverability and description vs manageable
Training needs and approaches

- Metadata and its uses
- Using the technology
- Language and abbreviations
Strengths of the project

• Collaborative working
  – Each member brought different strengths

• Strengthen ties between library and research community

• All working towards same objective
Project outcomes

1. The fieldtrip to Latina where approximately 700 images were taken.
2. A networking event at Robert Gordon University and a Research Workshop held at Loughborough University.
4. The opportunity to employ two PhD students to explore how the data repository might benefit their research.
5. A story map entitled “Traces of Fascist Urban Iconography in the Latina Province, Italy”:
   http://lboro.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=2c22cde882884c0a92a413ab1419e4f1
6. Published projects:
   https://figshare.com/projects/The_Graphic_Image_of_Beijing/16086 and
   https://figshare.com/projects/Latina_Province_Italy_pilot_study_/15534
Future

• Future projects!
Useful Links

1. A story map entitled “Traces of Fascist Urban Iconography in the Latina Province, Italy”: 2
   http://lboro.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?
   appid=2c22cde882884c0a92a413ab1419e4f1

2. Published projects:
   https://figshare.com/projects/The_Graphic_Image_of_Beijing/16086 and
   https://figshare.com/projects/Latina_Province_Italy_pilot_study_/15534
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