



Biological Colonization of Cultural Heritage. Emerging Trends in the Protection of Cultural Properties—Novel Control Strategies and Preventive Approaches

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The durability of the world's cultural heritage depends on many factors, mostly related to the surrounding environment with threats frequently coming from climatic conditions, climate change, air pollution, and biological colonization.

This Special Issue aims to publish outstanding papers on novel advances in products, methods, and techniques for the prevention and control of organisms involved in the biodeterioration of cultural heritage. The application of ecofriendly processes that do not require the use of harmful materials has recently received growing consideration. The evaluation of their effectiveness, environmental impact, long-term effect, and harmlessness toward substrates have been the topics of many recent studies. Toxicity and environmental impact are important causes for concern today in the selection of products such as biocides. This Issue will also focus on analytical techniques suitable to assess the efficacy of control methods. Several diagnostic tools have been developed for in situ monitoring of the performance of methods and products and for the detection of possible risks, thus facilitating maintenance and management decisions.





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Message from the Editorial Board

Now more than ever, research is asked to deliver knowledge and technologies to solve the major challenges faced by our society. The development of new materials and devices for (without the ambition to be exhaustive) energy, health and food technology, together with the need for establishing processes that reduce the impact on critical resources and the environment, is indeed in the spotlight of most contemporary research. Surface science and engineering play a key role in this regard, with an incredible potential in delivering new and deep scientific understanding and technical solutions essential to solve most of the major societal challenges.

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