

Special Issue

Drone Inspection in Cultural Heritage

Message from the Guest Editors

Unmanned aerial and ground vehicles (UAV and UGV), also called drones, have been widely used in cultural heritage for at least three decades, opening various applications in large scale and close range digitalization. Both platforms can capture images, or even point clouds, from inaccessible areas such as roofs or narrow galleries, making the complete documentation of complex heritage sites possible. However, the rapid evolution of geomatics and robotics, e.g., the development of new algorithms for structure from motion or SLAM problems, as well as the latest developments in electronics (e.g., navigation systems), requiring a continuous review of the possibilities within the heritage field. The present Special Issue will cover the latest advances in cultural heritage documentation, including the diagnosis of these structures, by means of the use of drones. Rather than another 3D reconstruction contribution, this Special Issue seeks high-quality papers that explore all the potentialities offered by these platforms and the latest advances in data acquisition, positioning, and sensor hybridization applied to the inspection of cultural heritage sites and objects.

Guest Editors

Dr. Parrinello Sandro

Prof. Dr. Salvatore Barba

Prof. Dr. Diego González-Aguilera

Dr. Jesus Fernandez-Hernandez

Dr. Miguel Angel Maté-González

Dr. Luis Javier Sanchez-Aparicio

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Drones
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
drones@mdpi.com

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Drones is an international open access journal focusing on advancing research in drone science, policy, technology, and applications. Today, drones have become indispensable for policymakers, regulatory authorities, mapping agencies, start-ups, and established firms. Their expanding societal and economic relevance is reflected in the rapid development of new sensors, upgraded platforms, specialized software, and novel applications. The journal provides a central forum for scholars in drone research and applications to exchange findings and innovations. With growing demand for high-quality research, our Editorial Board comprises international leaders and experts across relevant scientific areas. We offer rigorous peer review and rapid publication of papers from across all areas of drone science. We welcome you to submit your next paper to *Drones* and to contribute to the continued advancement of and innovations in the field of drones.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Diego González-Aguilera

Cartographic and Land Engineering Department, Higher Polytechnic School of Avila, University of Salamanca, Hornos Caleros, 50 05003 Avila, Spain

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