Analyzing Cultural Reactions to Disaster

Project Title	Analyzing Cultural Reactions to Disaster
Project Summary	The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative is seeking interns interested in participating in its research project about intangible cultural heritage and current disasters and crises.
Country	United States

Project Description

Interns will aggregate, analyze, and categorize case studies of cultural reactions to the onslaught of disasters and crises. This year, we will focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and intangible cultural heritage responses to natural disasters. Based upon internet research, interviews, or literature reviews, the result of this project will be a data resource for future research. This effort is critical to better understanding what practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills communities value in the aftermath of a major disaster and to develop effective outreach efforts that support these values.

The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) works to protect cultural heritage threatened or impacted by disasters and to help U.S. and international communities preserve their identities and history. SCRI projects include international and domestic cultural rescue work, as well as disaster training for heritage colleagues, first responders, and military personnel around the world.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Analytical writing
Coding
Data analysis
Editing and proofreading
Research
Storytelling/blogging/vlogging
Writing

Additional Information

Interns will gain: 1) skills in research and data acquisition; 2) knowledge in how to analyze and interpret valued intangible cultural resources; 3) experience in the field of disaster studies; 4) career development guidance through interactions with SCRI team members and guest speakers from partner institutions.

Desired backgrounds include but are not limited to: anthropology, cultural studies, ethnomusicology, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and performance studies.

This internship requires a commitment of 10 hours/week for the 2020-2021 school year. Interns will be working collaboratively with other VSFS interns, so applicants must be communicative via email and able to join weekly conference calls.

Language Requirements

None