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An Immersive and Interconnected Approach to Learning About Culture

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Immersive experiences change our perception of reality by giving us the feeling of "being there" in a different place and not just "looking at it". Technologies such as virtual reality are increasingly popular in cultural institutions that immerse visitors in digital art exhibitions and virtual tours. Moreover, these digital experiences also have the potential to make learning about culture more dynamic and entertaining. A hands-on approach to learning about culture involves immersing oneself in and experiencing a set of practices, languages and customs different from one's own. Thus, immersive experiences and technologies offer unique opportunities to study culture using digital and digitised content that museums, libraries and other institutions are collecting. My research focuses on creating a framework for designing undergraduate courses that allow students to virtually immerse themselves in a culture and identify the connections of its actors and practices collaboratively in an environment that digitally extends the classroom.