

SIEF WG Cultural Heritage and Property (2015-2017)

SIEF Congress Panels Sponsored

Imperatives of participation in the heritage regime: statecraft, crisis, and creative alternatives

(Heri03). *Ways of Dwelling: Crisis - Craft - Creativity*. SIEF 13th Congress. Göttingen, March 2017.

The current crisis is triggering creative ways to craft alternative heritage scenarios and collaborative interventions. At the same time, scholarship has drawn attention to cosmetic uses of participation. What conflicts and social fractures lurk beneath these uses? What alternatives are created?

Heritage as social, economic and utopian resource

(Heri006). *Utopias, Realities, Heritages. Ethnographies for the 21st century*. SIEF 12th Congress. Zagreb, June 2015.

Heritage can act as a utopian resource (in place and space) that potentially creates sociocultural and economic revenue. This WG sponsored panel calls for reflexive investigations of (travel) destinations conceived or contested in the heritage framework.

WG Members' Publications

Some examples:

Adell, Nicolas, Regina F. Bendix, Chiara Bortolotto, Markus Tauschek (Eds.) (2015). *Between Imagined Communities and Communities of Practice: Participation, Territory and the Making of Heritage*. Göttingen Studies in Cultural Property, Volume 8. Göttingen: Universitätsverlag Göttingen.

Bortolotto, Chiara (2016). Placing ICH, owning a tradition, affirming sovereignty: the role of spatiality in the practice of the ICH Convention. In: Davis, Peter, Michelle L. Stefano. *The Routledge Companion to Intangible Cultural Heritage*. London & New York: Routledge, pp. 46–58.

Jacobs, Marc (2016). The Spirit of the Convention – Interlocking Principles and Ethics for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*. 11: 71–87.

Kuutma, Kristin (2015). From folklore to intangible heritage. In: Logan, William, Máiréad Nic Craith, Ullrich Kockel (Eds.). *A Companion to Heritage Studies*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 41–54.

Logan, William, Máiréad Nic Craith, Ullrich Kockel (Eds.) (2015). *A Companion to Heritage Studies*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

International Research Projects

Some examples:

CoHERE Critical Heritages: performing and representing identities in Europe

Consortium member, principal investigator Dr. Ullrich Kockel
research.ncl.ac.uk/cohere

The CoHERE project seeks to identify, understand and valorise European heritages, engaging with their socio-political and cultural significance and their potential for developing communitarian identities. CoHERE addresses an intensifying EU Crisis through a study of relations between identities and representations and performances of history.

Constitution of Cultural Property Interdisciplinary Research Unit

Project co-director Dr. Regina Bendix
cultural-property.uni-goettingen.de

By focusing on the actors, discourses, contexts and rules that have led to different ways of constituting cultural property, the research group highlights the problematic nature inherent to the concept of cultural property itself, with an eye to both understanding and explaining it as a phenomenon.

Osmose Intangible Cultural Heritage & Comparative Law

Project co-director Dr. Anita Vaivade
dpc.hypotheses.org/le-projet-osmose

This research project aims at analysing the diversity of manners for translating in national laws the contemporary preoccupation to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. Its interest is to give tools for comparison that would be useful for the reflection on the implementation of public policies based on legal instruments.

UNESCO Frictions

Heritage-making across global governance

Principal investigator Dr. Chiara Bortolotto
frictions.hypotheses.org

This project explores cultural heritage policies in the era of global governance, focusing on their most recent and debated domain, that of intangible cultural heritage, and on its controversial key development, namely, the 'participation' of 'communities' in heritage identification and selection.

Involvement in UNESCO Issues

Some examples:

International intangible heritage policy

– involvement of WG members in the work of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and in expert meetings on issues of codes of ethics.

National intangible heritage policy – involvement of WG members in national policy making and implementation in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, The Netherlands, and other countries.

UNESCO Chair on Critical Heritage Studies and Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage

(Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, Dr. Marc Jacobs)

The specific objectives of the chair are to develop, jointly with partners, an interlocking set of (frameworks for) codes of ethics in safeguarding cultural heritage, focusing first on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and then connecting it to other model codes of ethics in the field of culture, as well as other fields.

UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy and Law

(Latvian Academy of Culture, Dr. Anita Vaivade)

The chair brings together scholars and students from both cultural studies (i.a. cultural anthropology, cultural sociology) and legal studies (i.a. legal history, international law, comparative law) to contribute to understanding cultural, historical, scholarly and other aspects that shape national policies and legislation in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Contact information

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See also SIEF WG website
Göttingen, March 2017