### SIEF WG Cultural Heritage and Property (2015-2017)

#### SIEF Congress Panels Sponsored


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 frictions lurk beneath these uses? What alternatives are created?


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.

#### 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.

- **Osmose** Intangible Cultural Heritage & Comparative Law
  - Project co-director: Dr. Regina Bendix
  - cultural-property.uni-goettingen.de

  This research project aims at analysing the diversity of manners for translating in national laws the contemporary preoccupation to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. It’s 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 formalisation of ‘communities’ in heritage identification and selection.

#### WG Members’ Publications

Some examples:


- **Bortolotto, Chiara** (2016). Placing ICH, owning a tradition, affirming cultural property itself, with an eye to both understanding and explaining it as a phenomenon.


#### 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** (Vrij Universiteits 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.e. cultural anthropology, cultural sociology) and legal studies (i.e. 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

Dr. Kristin Kuutma, University of Tartu, Estonia (kristin.kuutma@ut.ee)
Dr. Anita Vaivade, Latvian Academy of Culture, Archives of Latvian Folklore (anita.vaivade@lfka.edu.lv)

See also SIEF WG website
Göttingen, March 2017