Heritage Across Borders, the Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference in Hangzhou

It is our privilege and great pleasure to invite you to the fourth biennial ACHS (Association of Critical Heritage Studies) conference that will take place from 1st to 6th September 2018 in Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China.

The ACHS is the world’s leading group of researchers, professionals and contributors in heritage studies. The association dedicates itself to examining the social, territorial, economic and cultural issues and impact of tangible and intangible heritage and wishes to contribute to the renewal of knowledge and the improvement of heritage practices in political, academic, regional and community circles, in particular by cutting across perspectives and queries and by opening up disciplinary and national perspectives.

Session: "Transcultural Heritage as a Methodological Approach"

Convenors:

Yujie Zhu (Australian National University)

Katarzyna Puzon (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Abstract:

Today's world, characterized by networked agencies, global cultural flows, cultural hybridity, and movement of people within and across borders, contextualizes the idea of heritage in many new ways. There has been an increased scholarly attention to the global effects of heritage on local traditions, cultural practices, and daily life. The language of heritage and ethics written in international policies has contributed to redefine the meaning of culture and create a globalized vocabulary of Western origin. By a close analysis of translations and flows of key heritage concepts into and through different places and spaces, this panel endeavors to elaborate both the spatial and temporal dimension of the transcultural nature of heritage studies.

With these issues in mind, we invite papers looking into the following questions: How do western concepts (primarily Anglophone and French) travel and flow into non-Western contexts and countries such as in Asia (including the Middle East), Africa or South America, formulating a discursive hegemony of a conceptual lexicon? Have such concepts become a formidable "tool of governance" in constructing value system, identity and emotions – and, if so, in what ways? Which native/local concepts have been displaced or replaced in this process of transformation and which, such as "fengshui" or "yoga," have been popularized and practiced on the ground through transcultural encounter? Do such practices contribute to the intellectual discussion of the "decline of the West" and the "provincialization of Europe", or they are just witnesses of globalization?

Instead of focusing on single-site case-studies from diverse national contexts, this session investigates heritage in relation to the intensified mobility of concepts, objects, media and human beings. We welcome projects that engage transculturality as a new methodological approach to deepen the insight of the complex picture of heritage...
discourse and practices in the era of cultural and economic globalization. By investigating the proposition that cultures are an attribute of human societies formed by transcultural relationships, our session will collectively strive to cast new light on heritage politics, memory, governance, and the complex and the often contradictory association of power and culture.


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Odnośniki