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## Heritage in (E)Motion: Participative Approaches in the Cultural Mediation of Spaces of Memory

Sites of memory have become powerful indicators for representations of the past and expressions of public remembrance. We cherish them as historical landmarks, treasure troves for some form of collective memory in which we portray beliefs into a shared past and anchor our identification with it. But sites of memory are multi-faceted and complex because they allow for ever new gazes bestowed on them, and new meanings invested in them. Sites of memory, as collective as they are individual, consist of many layers of memory which portray multiple narratives of the past. They exist and prosper in a space shaped by contestation and dissonance. The Paulskirche in Frankfurt, well-known as venue of the first German national assembly during the 1848/49 revolution, illustrates these controversial dynamics of heritage and memory making. While with the 175th anniversary the political-historical discourse has focused on the site's meaning for the history of democracy in Germany, overall trends to transnationalize or 'europeanize' (national) histories and memories reinforce the need to open discursive spaces for narrating and representing (hi)stories and heritage(s) in a more nuanced and polyphonic way. This also means letting sites of memory break out of their prevalent (national) master narrative and open broader concepts of identification – or contestation.

This dissertation project aims to examine precisely how heritage professionals and everyone *doing* heritage can use these dynamics of heritage processes more productively to make heritage discourses and spaces of memory more participatory, inclusive, and responsive. By incorporating emotion networking, a technique developed by Dutch heritage scholars to investigate the complex interactions between people and heritage, into cultural mediation at the site, I hope to facilitate conversation about various narratives of the past and what they mean for individual and collective memory. Opening more discursive spaces of memory, this shall, moreover, foster awareness and understanding how different perspectives and feelings (co-)exist around heritage, and how they may shift when uncovering other (hi)stories and layers of memory.

While contributing to fundamental debates in heritage and memory studies on who owns the past, and who controls which meanings, values, and identities are appropriated and instrumentalized in various politics, this project sets out to introduce more inclusive strategies for understanding, mapping, and accessing the dynamics of heritage and memory making on the spot. It aims to present a path forward for establishing participatory approaches on how we may re-imagine heritage as spaces of memory where we can negotiate and communicate feelings, beliefs, and values about them – and where conflict and pluralism become a productive lens for mediating and doing heritage.