

Workshop in a Nutshell as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2017

World Heritage Communities: Values for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Organizational details

Instructor: Stella Basinyi

Date: May 31, 2017 from 16.00 to 20.00 h

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 024 (HS 024)

Content

This workshop discusses the World Heritage Phenomena with emphasis on two premises 1. Intangible vs. Tangible heritage. Intangible heritage; practices, representations, rituals expressions, knowledge, skills that communities and individuals recognise, as part of their “Living cultural heritage”, per definition is not fixable. They are susceptible to accelerated change due to global interactions and movements. Tangible heritage, on the other hand, includes*; objects, environments, Monuments, Groups of Buildings, Sites are fixed. They get their cultural value since they are thought to be infused by the intangible. 2. Different groups and their ways of understanding, interpreting and valuing the heritage based on a group-specific logic of valorisation. The user groups/local communities valorise heritage based on the idea of; nostalgia of the past, home, sacred, traditional, logics, governmental agents; political, public, national logics, site-management practitioners; economic, conservation and preservation logic tourists; Aesthetic, exotic logics. Hence there we have a divergence in the understandings of the value of heritage materials, hence diverging ideas of how to safeguard the heritage according to own logic. Due to these two premises, the questions arise; how can intangible heritage be safeguarded? By making, it tangible and represented in a site means to transform it in order to make it graspable to the wider audience. According to cultural sociologists, every fixation does inevitably follow a certain logic of valorisation. This then certainly opens up a realm of conflict between impacted groups and their perspectives of what determines the cultural value of a heritage resource. This leads to the second question; what are the underlying logics of valorisation and in how far are they in conflict with each other and what are the possible ways to communicate between these different perspectives and ways of valorisation? Examples will be taken from World heritage sites and landscapes of cultural value in Southern Africa.

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

Coarse language

English

Registration

Please register **by May 26, 2017** via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de.