

Series Heritage Studies

The idea to publish the scientific Series *Heritage Studies* emerged in the 2010s years when in the understanding of heritage its material, immaterial or historical interpretation had to be extended to its identity building function. Therefore, the series was created based on a holistic understanding of heritage and on the fundamental paradigm of heritage as motor (of) and contributor to sustainable and human development. Since then, the Heritage Studies Series strives to contribute to raising awareness for the need of theory-driven research on heritage transformation processes under the condition of globalisation and digitalisation. Developing and presenting research is therefore the main interest of the Series Heritage Studies (IHS) as series of the Institute Heritage Studies at the International Academy Berlin (INA).

The contextual framework of the series is provided by the UNESCO Convention *concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), the UNESCO Convention *for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* (2003) and the UNESCO programme *Memory of the World*. The research focus of the Series is the wide range of applications and constructions of heritage associated with the above-named standard-setting instruments and their corresponding perceptions and paradigms. Reason for this is the fact that despite – or perhaps because of – these standard-setting instruments on the protection of heritage, there is an enormous variety in the understandings of what heritage is, could be or should be. An important goal of the series is therefore, to make known the worldwide thematic, content-related and culturally diverse approaches to heritage protection and use, with authors and editors from all parts of the world, and by doing so contribute to decolonizing knowledge in the field of heritage.

Different interpretations of heritage are evident in diverse structures and perceptions, from material to immaterial, from static to dynamic or even from individual to social or cultural. These interpretations were expressed in paradigms formulated in very different ways, e.g. saying that heritage has an

inherent cultural value or that importance for sustainable human development is ascribed to heritage. Diverse perceptions of heritage are associated with conservation and use concepts as well as their underlying disciplines, including inter- and transdisciplinary networks. Regionally and internationally, theoretically and practically, individually and institutionally the epistemological process of *understanding heritage* still finds itself in its infancy. Insofar the Series *Heritage Studies* is overdue.

The Series aims to motivate experts from all parts of the world and of course young professionals and scholars to conduct research systematically in the broad field of *Heritage Studies* to make the results of their research available to the national and international, theoretically- and practically-oriented, disciplinarily and interdisciplinarily established heritage community.

The Series is structured according to the key UNESCO conventions and programmes for heritage into three sections focusing on: World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage and Memory of the World. Although the conventions and programmes for heritage provide a framework, the series distinguishes itself through its attempt to depart from the UNESCO-related political and institutional context, which dominates the heritage discourse today, and to place the theme of heritage in a scientific context so as to give it a sound and rigorous theoretical base. To this end, each of the three main sections addresses four dimensions of the heritage discourse broadly framed as Theory and Methods, Paradigms, History and Documents, and theory-based Case Studies.