



The 39th World
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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Heritage at the Crossroads

Name of Session Convener(s): Jean-Louis Fabiani and Alexandra Kowalski

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): Since the 1970s, heritage has become a central issue in cultural policies all over the world.. It has produced some contradictory and puzzling effects. One the one hand, international interest in heritage has provided new norms, new categories and repertoires of action and new types of professionals devoted to the identification and preservation of an ever growing realm of heritage. On the other hand, however, the definition and uses of heritage continues to rely heavily on local or regional definitions of choice and action, and to depend on particular traditions and political processes, frequently generating debates and conflicts about the scope and the nature of collective inheritances.

At the intersection of law, science (archeology, history of art, anthropology), culture and politics, heritage is an omnipresent and fascinating object Where are we standing today? Which new avenues of thinking, new issues and new challenges does the heritage phenomenon present us with, at the onset of a new millenium? We invite empirical or theoretical contributions addressing these broad questions in inventive ways. Possible topics include in particular:

- the uses, scope and limits of comparative approaches in heritage studies
- the North /South divide and the global politics of heritage
- the conceptual transformations of heritage due to the exhaustion of cultural legitimacy and to the broadening of the definition, specially immateriality or intangibility

- the place of religion in heritage policies : uses of the sacred, spectacularization of faith or rites, through for instance « ethnoscenology », etc.
- the role of war and destruction in heritage policies (moral indignation, universal values, « droit d'ingérence »)
- the impact of economic factors (gentrification, commodification) on the uses of heritage as a principle of spatial taxonomy and social segregation, especially in cities

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.