

P08. Heritage and Gentrification in the Time of Co-working and Digital Nomads

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During the last decade, there has been a shift in the institutional discourses around heritage practices and therefore, in the treatment of historic neighborhoods. International agreements like ‘the Faro convention’ (2005), or the ‘UNESCO recommendation on historic urban landscapes’ (2011) encourage local authorities to recognize, besides the architecture, the intangible values and uses that community give to heritage. Local authorities should further the museological conservation, restoration, and use of monuments and undertake urban rehabilitation projects that enhance the living qualities of a neighborhood. Such projects involve, for example, the renovation of public spaces, infrastructure for alternative transports, and the implementation of the so-called ‘complete streets’ (Streets that incorporate wide sidewalks, cycleways, and space for public transport).

However, in cities like Lisbon, Bali, and Mexico City policies and re-urbanization projects to improve historic neighborhoods have clashed with the possibility of remote work and the rising housing costs in American or European metropolises. Cities that did not use to top the tourism rankings are now listed among the best cities to migrate, do remote work, or do long-term tourism (Internations, 2022; Bloomberg, 2022; Nomad List, 2022). While the ‘commodification of heritage’ (Harvey, 1989; Kipfer and Keil, 2002; Watson, 2009) as a means of attracting investment by local authorities is nothing new, the deployment of new political and legal instruments in the quest to replace local populations with international elites or “expats” has increased significantly during the last decade.

This panel stresses the need to examine the contradictions between the institutional and academic discourse that seeks to strengthen local communities through re-urbanization and the reality, where the policies and projects implemented induce gentrification. To promote interdisciplinary communication about this problem, a structured discussion amongst panelists and attendees will explore examples of top-down or bottom-up initiatives that have either induced or prevailed gentrification. These initiatives can be examples of urban development or housing policies, urban rehabilitation, re-urbanization or architectural projects, social programs, or ephemeral interventions.

Keywords: Heritage Commodification; Urban Development; Historic Neighborhood Gentrification; Housing Policies.

Thematic lines: Accessibility (marginalized publics, subordination of heritage; heritage in the diaspora); Heritage practices; Heritage Management; Conservation, Restoration, and

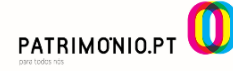
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Sustainability; Patrimonialization/Heritagization; Challenges, Discourses, and Heritage Policies.

Short bio: Martin Cornejo is a Berlin-based research Associate of the research school ‘Identity and Heritage’, a joint institution between the ‘Technische Universität Berlin’ and the ‘Bauhaus University in Weimar’. He is working on his Ph.D. dissertation about the gentrification of historic urban landscapes. His research compares the experiences of historic centers in Lisbon, Mexico City, and Berlin. Previously, Martin Cornejo worked as a coordinator of educational programs for the master’s in cities of the London School of Economics and led the direction of urban development of the Peruvian Ministry of Housing and Construction. He holds a B.A. in Architecture and an M.Sc. in Urban Management. His research interests are questions related to identity, heritage, urban development, and critical theory.

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