

P04. Contested Heritages: Transcultural Values, Ideological Threats and Preservation Challenges

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Globalization added another layer of complexity and fluidity to heritage creation and engagement, contributing to the appearance of a common heritage that developed meaning for different cultures. However, this common, transcultural heritage plays complex and fluid roles within society(ies), and notions of mutual appropriation(s) and exchange(s) within intercultural contacts that still need to be better understood, as they are crucial to a deeper understanding of how transcultural heritage can be portrayed, interpreted, and negotiated.

Transcultural heritage can be of particular importance to minorities (religious, ethnic, political, social), being perceived differently by other members of the same society and, thus, acquiring different levels of symbolic interpretation, which can lead to radically different outcomes: preservation or damage, (re)use or abandonment. Because of its contested nature, transcultural heritage may face ideological threats that endanger its preservation, thus presenting various challenges that can hinder its safeguarding for future generations.

This panel aims to engage different scientific fields in a discussion that favors a comparative approach on the following topics: heritage studies in the context of transculturality within contested communities; (new) approaches to (cultural, religious, ethnic) identity, thus (re)framing and (re)building our understanding of contested heritage and its dynamic narratives; and the shifting perceptions of a contemporary perspective on cross-cultural heritage and identity, thus contributing to a better understanding of the selective role played by heritage and social memory in the construction of historical and cultural belonging.

Keywords: Transcultural values; Contested cultures; Heritage preservation; Cultural authenticities; Ideological threats

Thematic lines: Heritage and identities; Re-signification, revisionism and post-colonial discourses; Banalization of heritage; Destroyed heritage and vulnerable heritage; Heritage actors and stakeholders

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Short bio: Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos is an architect, researcher, and professor at the School of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon. He is currently developing post-doctoral research at the ARTIS - Institute of Art History on the safeguarding of transcultural heritage in South Asia. Ph.D. from the University of Alcalá, on the rehabilitation of medieval fortifications; MA from the University of Coimbra, on the creation of cultural images; and post-graduation in Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Historical Sites from the Federal University of Bahia. He developed research on Cape-Verdean heritage within the Lusophone University of Cape Verde and was visiting researcher at the University of Moratuwa. Coordinator of the research project "Oratorians in Ceylon", and member of the project "The manor house in Portugal, Brazil, and Goa". Expert member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage. His research areas are the history of architecture and the preservation of built heritage.

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