

(Re)Contextualising Contested Heritage:

Building Capacity & Designing Participatory Approaches to
Preserve Cultural Heritage by the Youth.

Online Seminar



13th May 2020
Online Sessions from the
University of Prishtina
Kosovo



13th MAY 2020 Online Seminar

Online seminar presented via Zoom.

09:30 to 09:45

Welcome and Project Introduction

Dr Gehan Selim, Associate Professor, University of Leeds, UK

Dr Linda Gusia, Lecturer, University of Prishtina

Dr Nita Luci, Assistant Professor, University of Prishtina

09:45 to 10:30

Keynote Session

Dr. Florina Jerliu, Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Prishtina

“Re-interpretation of Cultural Heritage: Narratives, Landmarks, and Methodologies”

Panel Session

10:30 to 13:00

Understanding local challenges and opportunities towards co-designing heritage narratives. What tools and what methods?

Eli Gashi, RA - Key findings of Kosovo Desk Review

Yll Rugova, Deputy Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports

Shemsi Krasniqi, Department of Sociology

Sali Shoshi, Executive Director of Cultural Heritage Without Borders

Vjollca Aliu, Head of Cultural Heritage Department, Ministry of Culture

Alisa Gojani, Curator at Museum of Kosovo

Saranda Bogujevci, Member of Parliament

Blerta Basholli, Head of Department of Culture, Municipality of Prishtina

Blerta Ismaili, CHWB

Nora Prekazi, Curator (Ethnology Section) Museum of Mitrovica

Arta Arifi, Cultural heritage worker

13:00

Conclusions and Remarks

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In this seminar we would like to engage multiple voices and actors to further develop the conversation on tools and methods - to research, collect, disseminate, archive and engage - through traditional methods and new digital technologies, in making cultural heritage relevant to public interests.

The past thirty years, first of violence and dislocation, but also abounding creative production, followed by state-building and international interventions, have left lasting marks on Kosovo's cultural heritage. In 2017 the Kosovo Government adopted a ten-year National Strategy on Cultural Heritage which seeks to preserve and promote cultural heritage on the basis of sustainable economic, social and cultural development. Organizations such as Cultural Heritage Without Borders in Kosovo continue to restore sites and engage the public in support of rights to cultural heritage and creative industry. Ec Ma Ndryshe continues to monitor, report and define possibilities for urban planning that places citizens, and cultural and natural heritage at the centre. Currently there are almost two thousand heritage sites under temporary protection in Kosovo and only twenty-three under permanent protection.

Whereas many sites of cultural heritage have fallen in disarray, governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, as well as independent citizen action, have begun vying for increased preservation and education. Although there is only scattered digitization of the overall cultural heritage of Kosovo, artistic and multi-media productions surrounding sites, events (including: wartime memory; 1990s social, cultural and political activism and resistance; modernist and socialist architecture and art; archaeological sites, etc.), have animated the interest of local and international scholars and publics.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do you define cultural Heritage (tangible and intangible)? Why is cultural heritage important to you as an individual or a group (memory, identity etc.)?
2. What is the current role of the Youth in understanding the value of the past, what skills and practices are in place? and what actions? (Digital – non-digital)
3. What is the role of local museums in protecting and disseminating cultural heritage? What tools and mechanisms are in place to engage the youth in co-production and co-creating of this knowledge?
4. How can we work in more interdisciplinary ways to engage with this past? What are the main resources we need? What are the challenges: and who are the potential partners?
5. Which are the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) that engage and correspond to protecting local heritage, how are they tackled and in what manner?

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