

Polarisation or hybridisation? Disputes over heritage sites and “national sacred”



Anna Niedźwiedź, Associate Professor, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie

Online Lecture in the framework of
Una Europa PhD Workshop:

*Heritage Hybridisations: Concepts,
Scales and Spaces*

Introduction: Associate Professor Krzysztof Kowalski

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[ZOOM link](#)

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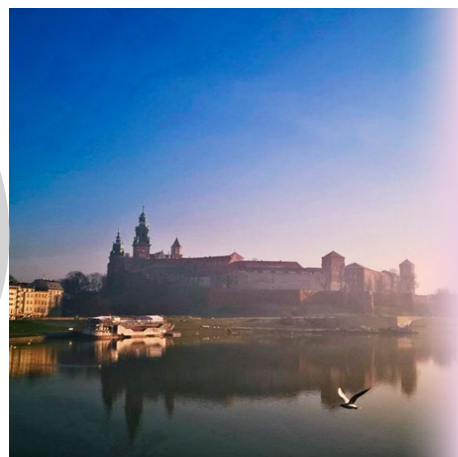
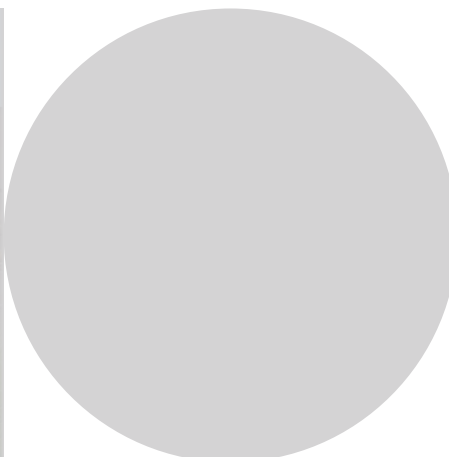
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Anthropological approaches to “heritage” and “space” treat both categories as dynamic, multi-layered, interrelated and contextual. In this talk I will discuss (a) how heritage sites are created by specific historical trajectories and heritage regimes and (b) how they form a performative, embodied and experiential domain connected with lived emotions and bottom-up practices. Using examples from ethnographic fieldwork in the city of Kraków I will focus on sites recognized as related to the “national sacred” and analyse how they function as sources of heritage polarisation and/or hybridisation.

Anna Niedźwiedź is an associate professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. As a visiting professor she taught at the USA: at SUNY Buffalo (2006-2007) and Rochester University (2011). Her research focusses on anthropology of religion, anthropology of space and the heritagization of religion. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Poland and Ghana. Between 2016 and 2020 she served as a Principal Investigator of the Polish section in the international consortium HERILIGION founded by HERA and dedicated to the study of the “heritagization of religion and the sacralization of heritages in contemporary Europe”.

Krzysztof Kowalski studied ethnology at the Jagiellonian University (MA in 1993), received a PhD from the Faculty of History (2000, JU) and obtained the title of Habilitated Doctor of Studies on Cultures and Religions (2020, JU). He is an Associate Professor in the Department of the Society and Cultural Heritage of Europe at the Institute of European Studies (JU). Krzysztof is interested in theories of heritage and the anthropology of Europe. Since 2010, he has been the coordinator of the double degree program signed by the IES JU and l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de l'Université de Strasbourg.



Wawel Hill, Kraków, c. Anna Niedźwiedź