

Graduate workshop, call for papers: Making and Remaking Heritage in Global Context

Convenors: Erik de Maaker (Leiden University), Keletso Setlhabi (University of Botswana), Noel Salazar (University of Leuven), Rebecca Sauer (University of Zurich).

The relevance of heritage, in any societal context, depends on the degree to which it has a bearing on current societal issues. Heritage, both tangible and intangible, derives from the past, but is remembered, kept, and perhaps curated, for the relevance it has in the present. Consequently, there is always an equation between what is acknowledged as heritage, and the pressing global challenges of the time. This may involve issues as diverse as climate change, war (or the threat of it), or the insecurities and opportunities created by a growing dependence on capitalist markets.

This graduate workshop at the [Anthropology Southern Africa \(AsnA\) Annual Conference 2024](#) in Johannesburg will focus on the diverse ways in which heritage comes into being, or loses its relevance, and how that can provide insights into the kind of challenges which people in given societal contexts face. It is tentatively scheduled for 8-9 November 2024 and is an initiative of Una Europa's [Self-Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage](#). Una Europa is an alliance of 11 leading European research universities — institutions which are particularly strong in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities.

We invite presentations from graduate students who in their research engage with these themes, exploring what heritage making or unmaking can accomplish, or how it can fail. Our aim is to highlight and discuss new, hitherto ignored approaches to heritage.

More about the theme

Definitions of heritage have been subject to extensive institutionalised discussions from the mid-20th century onwards, resulting in the concept being amended and reframed, to fit changing understandings of representation, locality, authority, and resistance. Taking multi-perspectivity seriously, we want this graduate workshop to contribute to discussions that scrutinise and problematise set categories such as tangible and intangible heritage, which are promoted by international organisations such as UNESCO. Likewise, the well-known juxtaposition of a top-down 'Authorised Heritage Discourse' and a subaltern 'Heritage from Below', suggesting that people generate heritage in dedicated sociocultural locations with the intention to shape societal discourse, warrants further exploration and reconsideration. What about traditions, skills, objects, and (local) stories that people value because they derive from the past, but that they or others do not objectify as heritage and that therefore remain 'in the shadow', to be understood more or less exclusively in terms of for example custom, religion, or musical styles?

We are particularly interested in the ways in which research interlocutors experience how what earlier has not been considered heritage acquires that status, or how what at one time was considered heritage loses that appeal. How do processes of heritage making and remaking take shape across regional, national, and global contexts, and involve a variety of stakeholders with distinct and not seldom conflicting interests?

Submission guidelines

We invite papers from graduate students based on original research, with a strong theoretical focus. Graduate students are invited to submit a 300-word abstract to maaker@fsw.leidenuniv.nl by **5 July 2024**. This is earlier than the general deadline for the ASnA conference.

Participants will be notified three weeks after the deadline for the graduate workshop whether their paper has been accepted. Accepted participants need to submit their full paper by **1 October 2024**, five weeks prior to the workshop.

Participants are also expected to read and review the papers of fellow participants, and to register for the conference. The conference is likely to involve a field visit to a heritage site in or around Johannesburg. The week after, in Johannesburg, the global conference of the World Anthropological Union (takes place (11-15 November).

Please note that this workshop will take place in English and will be held in-person (with no online option).

Financial support

We can provide partial grants for travel and conference registration to a small number of participants. The amount provided will depend on the distance to be travelled. Potential participants should indicate if they require financial support when submitting an abstract, and how much they may require. Please provide a breakdown of the estimated costs, indicating which part can be covered from other sources (all grants awarded will be partial). Also, please indicate why you want to participate in the graduate workshop. When paper selections are communicated, we will also share information about whether, and to what extent, grants have been awarded.