Una Europa Doctoral Programme in Cultural Heritage (Una-Her-Doc)

5. Una Europa Transnational Research Teams in Cultural Heritage

All the Doctoral candidates will be invited to actively participate in seminars and activities of one of four Una Europa Transnational Research Teams in Cultural Heritage, which gather professors, researchers and Doctoral candidates of Una Europa universities:

5. 1. Heritage, Global Migration and Mobility

This research theme aims to highlight the role that migrations and mobilities have played in the past and increasingly play today in the social production of contemporary heritage. It posits that mobilities of populations, ideas, models, and standpoints contribute significantly to the heritagization of artifacts and mentifacts and explores the multiple relationships between migration and heritage. It further advances the hypothesis of a new 'heritage regime', which suggests a departure from the dominant understanding of the heritage concept by introducing mobilities and migrations as a major player in contemporary heritagization processes.

5. 2. Heritage and the digitization of Society

Cultural heritage breathes a new life with digital technologies. The digital revolution is also transforming the ways in which people know, understand, use, and visit heritage sites, opening the way to a 'new Renaissance', but also bringing a world of challenges. Segments of communities can be left aside from this revolution, while dissonant narratives and controversial approaches to heritage can also be spread more broadly. One of the greatest challenges in the digitization of society regarding cultural heritage is therefore to bridge the gap in the access to, and ability to master, cultural narratives.

5. 3. Social Capital, Mutuality and Volunteering

Under this theme, we study Cultural Heritage not just as product but also as process. We are interested in how Cultural Heritage is produced and by whom, by co-producing heritage studies together with increasingly diverse communities. Cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, is also about process – that curates and creates its assets, transforms and transcends these from cultural to social capital, towards greater well-being, resilience, sustainability and social cohesion. Heritage-as-process
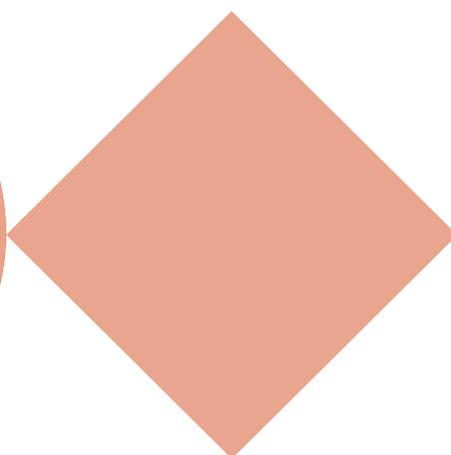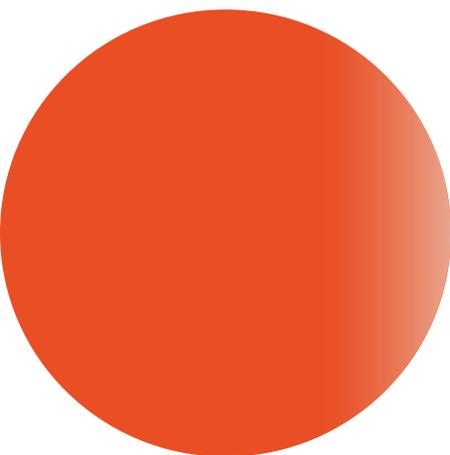
produces tensions, too, as flows of power, contested meanings and temporalities in new and existing forms of practice intersect. We wish to harness this in-betweenness of cultural heritage, between being and doing, to work with existing heritages and their (dis-)associated communities towards creating new ones.

5. 4. Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage, tangible and intangible, is a resource under threat from natural decay, deliberate destructions, or disinterest, from being undervalued or overexploited. These issues are exaggerated by climate change, social conflicts, migratory dynamics, and the scarce economic and financial support. In this frame, we study the material remains for their characterization, sustainable conservation, and valorisation - and the intangible or dynamic heritages to validate solutions for the protection of knowledge and practice. Thus, the safeguarding of cultural heritage is a research theme that involves many different technical, scientific, social, and economic competences and an interdisciplinary approach to address these holistically.