

Call for Applications
International Summer Academy Cottbus: Understanding Heritage (ISAC) 2014

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7 – 19 July 2014, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2014



INTERNATIONAL
GRADUATE SCHOOL:
HERITAGE STUDIES

The **International Graduate School: Heritage Studies** under the direction of the UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies is offering its third International Summer Academy Cottbus: Understanding Heritage (ISAC) under the title:

***„The Role of Participation, Empowerment and Sustainable Development
in Heritage Studies and its Corresponding Disciplines“***

The Summer Academy is organized under the patronage of the German Commission for UNESCO and the Brandenburg Ministry of Science, Research and Culture (tbc).

The ISAC is supported and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

SUMMARY

The requirement of participation in the protection and use processes of World Heritage is a component of the so-called Global Strategy. It aims among other things at the typologically and regionally balanced further development of the cultural and natural heritage of humanity. In the context of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention participation is already formulated as an important criterion for nominations and inscriptions. Requirements of participation in the Memory of the World Programme are relatively at the beginning of the discussion. At the same time there are voices which want to see participation implemented in this programme.

Participation is closely related to the claim for empowerment. The understanding of empowerment is in turn based on a multidisciplinary approach. As social and democratic engagement this can be found just as much in contexts interpreted by social sciences as in medicine or even as civil engagement, which can be motivated through approaches of political sciences.

Our third Summer Academy aims at making the protection and the use of heritage in consideration of diverse approaches and concepts of participation and empowerment the subject of discussion. Analogue of the professional potential of our IGS, the approaches will be developed once again disciplinarily as well as interdisciplinarily.

CONTENT

The Summer Academy covers six thematic areas:

The Role of Communities in Sustainable Development

In recent years the involvement of local communities in the field of world heritage has become a key requirement and a necessary measure to achieve sustainable development. On the one hand, this requirement arises from the UNESCO Global Strategy, in which community participation is one strategic objective. On the other hand, it arises from the observation that the protection of heritage can best be ensured by involving local communities and placing protection in their own hands. The speakers invited to discuss this topic will problematize the inter-relationships between community participation and its relevance for sustainable development.

Participation and Empowerment in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention

Participation and empowerment in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention are conditions for inscriptions. Unlike the World Heritage Convention, in the context of intangible heritage, participation and empowerment can be reached better, because they are part of the cultural expressions of those who practice the intangible culture. Notwithstanding, contradictions between theory and practice exist also in this Convention.

Possibilities and Limits of Participation

The delisting of the Dresden Elbe Valley from the World Heritage List – or best known as the Dresden Case – has mobilised the World Heritage community in different directions. In the narrower context of the World Heritage discourse there were again and again loud voices which criticised the World Heritage Convention as static and enemy of development. Other Stakeholders maintained that the construction of a bridge, although necessary, was inadequate in its dimensions. Still others thought that with more participation of the local population the escalation between the World Heritage Committee and the local administration which led to the delisting of the site as World Heritage could have been prevented. The invited experts will either discuss this case, or will debate the possibilities and limits of participation in the context of heritage from social, cultural or legal perspectives.

Entrepreneurship & Empowerment

Approaches of entrepreneurship are as broadly conceptualised as classical approaches of business studies. In the context of the heritage discourse all economic facets are oriented towards an efficient use of heritage. Whether and how economically-justified heritage valuation can be combined with approaches of participation and empowerment hasn't been adequately answered so far. Currently it is widely debated if founding disciplines should employ such considerations at all. The invited speakers will uncloset a spectrum of views on this topic.

Urban Management & Empowerment

Since the adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (2011) the debate over sustainable urban development has accelerated. Worldwide, relatively static concepts of cultural preservation in historic city centres are now enlarged with discussions on new realities of immigration and diversity or new concepts of development and use of place. Implicitly such new approaches require the involvement of people in their own development processes, and the competence for appreciation and for political and social assumption of responsibility needed in this regard. Participation and empowerment are under these points of view constitutive elements of urban development and shall be acknowledged in this manner.

Theory and Practice of the Concept of Cultural Landscape in the Context of UNESCO

Cultural landscapes have been defined as a type of World Heritage in 1994 with whom the different Committees wanted to embrace overall ensembles of World Heritage. Against this background the people operating at the heritage sites have been given more attention. Those who live in such very different landscapes should be integrated in the nomination process. For the first time requirements of participation and empowerment, which oriented themselves towards the local population, were raised. Presenters will discuss whether and how such aims are and should be implemented.

TARGET GROUP

The Summer Academy aims at international Master's and Ph.D. students in Heritage Studies or related fields. During the two-week programme, participants will receive comprehensive insights into research on the most relevant and innovative approaches to participation and empowerment in the context of heritage.

HOW TO APPLY?

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2014.

ISAC may offer up to 15 scholarships provided by the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**.

In order to apply please submit the following documents:

1. Application form
2. Curriculum Vitae (1 page)
3. Letter of Motivation indicating the chosen thematic area (1 page)
4. Abstract of your research project in progress, i.e. your in-class presentation (0,5 page)
5. Proof of enrolment as a Master's or Ph.D. student

Send your application via email to:

Ms. Anca Claudia Prodan
Scientific Assistant, Chair Intercultural Studies, UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies
BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg
Email: anca.prodan@tu-cottbus.de

Application procedure:

Please, be aware that applicants have to select one of the six thematic areas described above. The application is considered incomplete, if a thematic area is not indicated. The short-listed candidates will be invited to submit a 2,000-word essay on their in-class presentation by May 05, 2014. Based on the quality of the papers the advisory board of the Summer Academy will select the definite participants and award up to 15 scholarships.

For more information about the Summer Academy and the admission procedure, please visit our website:

www.tu-cottbus.de/interkulturalitaet/summer-academy/



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