

Heritage in transition

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Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift:

Heritage in Transition

Global and Local Challenges in Germany and the United Kingdom, 1970-2010

Bart Zwegers

1. Since the 1970s, contrasts between the decentralized German and the centralized British governance of heritage preservation have become less clear-cut.
2. Although the World Heritage Title still has much appeal, local actors increasingly see it as dispensable or even as an obstacle to economic and urban development.
3. The 2003 UNESCO Intangible Heritage Convention has backfired on monument preservation, providing advocates of intrusive urban and industrial developments in historic areas with new rhetorical and conceptual ammunition.
4. A Multi-Level Perspective on heritage allows for a powerful heuristic to study the heritage process because of its potential to include both top-down and bottom-up processes in the analysis.
5. A federalized system in which sub-national layers of government are responsible for heritage preservation has benefits for the involvement of local heritage communities, but makes it difficult for a country to be proactive on a global stage.
6. Television programs like *Restoration*, *Bank Giro Loterij Restauratie* and *Het Mooiste Pand van Nederland*, in which viewers can decide which historic building is saved from deprivation, subject heritage to 'the will of the people' and redefine what it means to be a heritage 'expert'.
7. Heritage tells us at least as much about the present and present-day social and political realities, as it does about the past.
8. The success of an interview depends as much on the social skills of the interviewer as it does on a good topic list and the right questions.
9. Public PhD defenses in the Netherlands form a unique cultural practice that should be considered for inclusion onto the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.