

DE GRUYTER

*Marie-Theres Albert (Ed.)*

# PERCEPTIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN HERITAGE STUDIES



HERITAGE STUDIES

# Perceptions of Sustainability in Heritage Studies

---

Editor  
Marie-Theres Albert

**DE GRUYTER**

**The following volumes have been published in the Heritage Studies Series:**

- Volume 1: Understanding Heritage — Perspectives in Heritage Studies, 2013  
Volume 2: 40 Jahre Welterbekonvention — Zur Popularisierung eines Schutzkonzeptes für Kultur- und Naturgüter, 2015  
Volume 3: 40 Years World Heritage Convention — Popularizing the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, 2015

For further information please consult the following websites:

<http://www.heritagestudies.de>

<http://www.b-tu.de/heritagestudies>

The Editor and the Editorial Advisory Board would like to thank the Sparkasse Spree-Neisse for their generous financial support and Dr. Hans-Joachim Aubert for his continuing backing of the Heritage Studies Series by providing the third cover photo free of charge from his documentation of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

ISBN 978-3-11-041513-1

e-ISBN (PDF) 978-3-11-041527-8

e-ISBN (EPUB) 978-3-11-041557-5

ISSN 2196-0275

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

A CIP catalog record for this book has been applied for at the Library of Congress.

**Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the internet at <http://dnb.dnb.de>

© 2015 Walter De Gruyter GmbH Berlin/Boston

Photo on the title page: © Hans-Joachim Aubert, 2000

Editing: Stefan Simon

Copyediting: Caroline Lawrence and Judith Andreyev

Typesetter: LVD Gesellschaft für Datenverarbeitung mbH, Berlin

Printer: Hubert & Co. GmbH & Co. KG, Göttingen

Printed in Germany

[www.degruyter.com](http://www.degruyter.com)





# Heritage Studies

---

Editor

Marie-Theres Albert

Editorial Advisory Board:

Christina Cameron, University of Montréal/Canada, Claire Cave, University College Dublin/Ireland, Magdalena Droste, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg/Germany, Jennifer Harris, Curtin University, Perth/Australia, Ana Pereira Roders, Eindhoven University of Technology/The Netherlands, Birgitta Ringbeck, Federal Foreign Office of Germany/Germany, Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology/Germany, Helaine Silverman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/USA, Jutta Ströter-Bender, University of Paderborn/Germany

## Volume 4

---

#### Scientific Peer Review Committee

The Editor of this book and the Editorial Advisory Board were supported by an independent Scientific Peer Review Committee composed of recognized experts in the field of heritage research. We therefore wish to thank ElArabi Emara, Klaus Hübner, D. Fairchild Ruggels and Franziska Schaaf. The committee reviewed, evaluated, ranked and rated the research papers based on internationally established procedures and guidelines.

# Content

## Introduction — 1

### Perceptions of the Contributors — 3

Marie-Theres Albert

## I Introductory Reflections — 9

### Mission and Vision of Sustainability Discourses in Heritage Studies — 11

Marie-Theres Albert

### Culture in Moving the MDGs to the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Some Reflections on the Role of Living Heritage for Sustainable Development — 21

Minja Yang

### Sustainability in the World Heritage Convention: The Making of a Policy Framework — 35

Francesco Bandarin

## II History and Documents — 47

### Natural Heritage and Sustainable Development – A Realistic Option or Wishful Thinking? — 49

Barbara Engels

### The Landscape Approach – A Global Context for Sustainability — 59

Mechtild Rössler

### Sustainable Development and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Integrating Culture into Development — 71

Shina Erlewein

## III Paradigms — 85

### From Mitigation to Adaptation: A New Heritage Paradigm for the Anthropocene — 87

Giovanni Boccardi

### Social Sustainability of the Historic Urban Landscape — 99

Michael Turner

### Urban Heritage and Sustainable Development in South Asia: A Plea for a Heritage-Aware Approach — 113

Jyoti Hosagrahar

**Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Natural Sites and the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development — 125**

Robert Rode

**Culture, Heritage and Solidarity in the Context of Sustainable Development — 137**

Manuel Peters

**IV Theory, Methods and Practices — 145**

Disciplinary and Epistemological Perceptions

**Cultural Landscapes: Heritage Preservation as a Foundation for Sustainable Regional Development — 147**

Joaquim Sabaté, Mark Warren

**A Reflection on Methodological Approaches in Assessing and Implementing Social Sustainability in Historical Public Spaces — 159**

Solmaz Yadollahi

**The Social Function of Cultural Heritage: Conservation Practices on the Basis of Sociocultural Sustainability — 173**

Juliana Forero

Sustainability in Heritage Management Strategies

**Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability — 189**

Ron van Oers

**World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism: A Multifaceted Relationship — 203**

Carol Westrik

**Heritage Impact Assessments as a Tool to Open Up Perspectives for Sustainability: Three Case Studies Related to Discussions Concerning the Visual Integrity of World Heritage Cultural and Urban Landscapes — 215**

Michael Kloos

**Annex — 229**

**Notes on Contributors — 231**

**Notes on Peers — 235**

**Index — 237**



---

## Introduction



# Perceptions of the Contributors<sup>1</sup>

Marie-Theres Albert

## Background

The perceptions of the contributing authors on the issues of *sustainability* and *heritage* are structured into four parts. Following the *Introduction* and Part 1: *Introductory Reflections*; Part 2: *History and Documents* presents three contributions dealing with the history of natural heritage, cultural landscapes and intangible cultural heritage, introducing the paradigmatic discourse that is pursued in Part 3: *Paradigms*; while Part 4: *Theory, Methods and Practices* brings this discussion to a close.

## Introductory Reflections

In her paper on *Mission and Vision of Sustainability Discourses in Heritage Studies* Marie-Theres Albert opens the discussion in this publication by introducing the missions of our world at the beginning of the twenty-first century and the corresponding visions on sustainable development on a global scale. She points out the need for developing new concepts of sustainability, especially for protecting and using heritage and World Heritage. On the other hand, as she illustrates, a populist exploitation of the discourse on sustainability can be observed. It has changed the essence of the issue and in many cases created a ‘false labeling’ of sustainability. Concluding her perceptions, she proposes a more conceptual understanding of sustainability by including concepts of justice, “governing the commons” or empowerment.

The emergence and evolving history of the concepts of culture, heritage and sustainability, including the aspect of World Heritage and underlying theoretical underpinnings and practical execution are discussed in detail in the introductory commentaries by Minja Yang, President of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation of the Catholic University of Leuven, and Francesco Bandarin, former Assistant Director General of UNESCO. In her paper *Culture in Moving the MDGs to the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, Yang offers some reflections on the role of living heritage for sustainable development and the cultural dimension of development. She stresses the vital role of culture as an enabler of social cohesion and peace, recalling UNESCO’s Constitution and the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. One

---

<sup>1</sup> I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shina Erlewein, who was mainly responsible for compiling this excellent summary of the articles in our *perception of contributors*.

of her key messages is the leading role of local authorities and cities in fostering sustainable development. She also draws attention to the integration of culture in local development policies and practices.

The sustainability discourse as it relates to the World Heritage Convention is presented in a paper by Francesco Bandarin, *Sustainability in the World Heritage Convention: The Making of a Policy Framework*, where he examines the integration of culture into the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the alignment of the World Heritage Convention with current strategic orientations in international culture and development policy. Reviewing among others the outcome document of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly resolutions and UNESCO's recent policy focusing on culture and development, the author perceives a trend towards recognizing culture as a vehicle for sustainable development. The paper concludes with the argument that the prerequisite for future heritage conservation and preservation endeavours is an active heritage coalition with local communities under the aegis of a sustainable development policy framework.

## History and Documents

Part 2 addresses the main topic of this publication in the context of UNESCO Conventions and programmes. It includes rationales for the perception of heritage and sustainability in the course of historical developments and adaptations to them, as well as the application of the documents at different stages.

In her paper *Natural Heritage and Sustainable Development – A Realistic Option or Wishful Thinking?*, Barbara Engels discusses World Heritage policy instruments as a discursive shift from conservation to development. She points out that in the absence of tools ensuring sustainable resource use and development and in conjunction with ineffective management, human activities currently pose serious threats to the integrity and value of the sites, particularly in the context of natural World Heritage sites.

In her contribution *The Landscape Approach – A Global Context for Sustainability*, Mechthild Rössler presents recent debates concerning a Global Landscape Convention, including discussions on the European Landscape Convention, as well as the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape. The paper describes UNESCO's role in fostering the global landscape debate and related protection measures since the early 1960s. It gives an overview of the historical trajectory of the concept of landscape as it has been approached on the basis of numerous international legal instruments. She finally argues that “landscape” can provide a holistic framework for future activities to address the worlds' ever-growing challenges and thereby facilitate sustainable development perspectives that integrate both durable conservation and development.

Shina Erlewein presents in her paper *Sustainable Development and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Integrating Culture into Development* the interrelation of sustainable

development and intangible cultural heritage, reflecting both UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and recent international activities, debates and documents on the matter. She argues for the need to give special attention to the current drafting of a new chapter on sustainable development within the Operational Directives to the Convention. Analysing the 2012 UN report *Realizing the Future We Want For All*, which builds on a three-pillar model of sustainable development and highly influenced the draft version of the new Directives, the paper finally encourages further reflection stressing the importance of conceptualizing culture as an independent goal.

## Paradigms

Part 3 addresses normative aspects of heritage and sustainability by focusing on the intentions and constructs associated with heritage conventions and the related perceptions. The aim is to proffer concepts that can preserve the future viability of heritage and sustainability as they pertain to transformation processes.

The opening paper is Giovanni Boccardi's *From Mitigation to Adaptation: A New Heritage Paradigm for the Anthropocene*. This is an urgent plea to the heritage community to expand its sphere of influence and look beyond the limits of specific heritage sites. Such an approach is required to confront today's most urgent challenges – the irrevocable effects of human activities on the environment and ensuing future consequences for all humanity. In dealing with the *Anthropocene*, the author argues that the viability of heritage conservation needs to be questioned and its guiding principles reframed accordingly. In particular, the related mitigation strategy aiming to prevent damage to heritage needs to give way to a new paradigm: the adaptation approach. This concept emphasizes heritage as a 'quality' that can convey cultural values, which needs to join forces with modern sciences and reach out to the world community in order to achieve a balance between symbolic and worldly issues, and thereby potentially enabling both cultural continuity and sustainability.

The paper *Social Sustainability of the Historic Urban Landscape* by Michael Turner provides a historical overview of cities and their transformation over time. The author contemplates the notion of sustainable development and emphasizes the need for a holistic and dynamic approach. Reflecting Karl Mannheim's conceptualization of generation as a sociological phenomenon, he stresses that our understanding of generations from a rather socio-historical perspective needs to extend beyond mere temporal chronology. This perception allows several generations to exist simultaneously. He argues that in addition to the historical aspect, geographical realities also need to be considered when dealing with sustainability in urban environments, with particular emphasis on coexistence, compromise and social inclusion.

With her paper on *Urban Heritage and Sustainable Development in South Asia: A Plea for a Heritage-Aware Approach*, Jyoti Hosagrahar develops a new paradigm, a

heritage-aware approach. She discusses preservation and management of World Heritage properties in urban areas, focusing particularly on the Indian and wider South Asian context. It first engages in a historical review of heritage conservation practice and law in South Asia, further outlining the adverse effects of rapid urbanization, modernization and development particularly to historic cities and urban areas. The paper then covers the concepts of cultural heritage and sustainable development, arguing for integrative solutions that recognize heritage as a resource for sustainable development. Subsequently, she identifies a variety of challenges and finally presents six normative policy recommendations advocating a heritage-aware approach to sustainable development.

Robert Rode discusses the *Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Natural Sites and the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development* through a transformation of the sustainability discourse and change in conservation policies and practices in these particular areas. Although indigenous communities and international organizations have been successful in strengthening the role of culture in sustainable development, there is a risk that this discourse might be devalued by political narratives of nature conservation that could reinforce misrepresentations of indigenous peoples. The paper presents a paradigm shift that purposefully emphasizes their diversity.

In *Culture, Heritage and Solidarity in the Context of Sustainable Development*, Manuel Peters considers the significance of culture and cultural heritage from different but convergent points of view. He argues that the introduction of culture into the debate might help us to better assess proposed sustainable development measures. Against this background, the author emphasizes how a better understanding of the contributions of cultural heritage can further promote sustainable development, for instance by identifying alternative ways of international world-making approaches to a sustainable future. He is thus seeking to interject the concept of solidarity as a new paradigmatic framework.

## Theory, Methods and Practices

Part 4 captures the diversity of heritage and sheds light on various theoretical and methodological frameworks, presenting case studies in order to concretize its underlying theories. Essentially, it deals with the new disciplinary and interdisciplinary insights that can be gained from a better understanding of heritage and related epistemological and/or methodological approaches. Part 4 is divided into two sections, *Disciplinary and Epistemological Perceptions* and *Sustainability in Heritage Management Strategies*.

*Disciplinary and Epistemological Perceptions* presents papers that reflect on urban planning strategies. The first, *Cultural Landscapes: Heritage Preservation as a Foundation for Sustainable Regional Development* by Joaquim Sabaté and Mark Warren, presents an overview of the construct of cultural landscape and describes the con-

ceptual shifts in cultural landscape preservation occurring within the purview of the United States National Park Service. The authors emphasize that sustainable heritage preservation needs to evolve from mere conservation efforts to better integrate the notion of change and progress in commercial terms, and in both cases strive to improve the quality of life of the local communities. They also contend that the cultural landscape paradigm aims to preserve a site's integrity, while at the same time acknowledging its living and dynamic nature. The paper makes reference to a survey on diverse cultural landscapes and heritage parks and delineates the guiding principles that might be helpful in assisting urban planning or preservation projects to simultaneously embrace both heritage and development.

Solmaz Yadollahi's paper, *A Reflection on Methodological Approaches in Assessing and Implementing Social Sustainability in Historical Public Spaces*, is a literature review. Reflecting on the definition of social sustainability and the meaning of public space, the author reviews urban planning approaches which link physical public space and social sustainability. She points out that they are both concerned with concepts such as *communication*, *social cohesion* and *equality*. Reviewing two examples of empirical research in the field, their methodological strengths and weaknesses in assessing social sustainability in public spaces are discussed. The conclusion is an outlook on public space research, suggesting that at the theoretical level, the contribution of physical public space to social sustainability is justifiable. Nevertheless, at the empirical level there is a gap in using qualitative methods and it is therefore that she suggests more empirical methods.

The paper by Juliana Forero, *The Social Function of Cultural Heritage: Conservation Practices on the Basis of Sociocultural Sustainability*, addresses the importance for the improvement of quality of life and well-being as well as the acknowledgement of cultural practices of the local communities where cultural heritage conservation takes place. She identifies and analyses the social function of cultural heritage within the context of sociocultural sustainability principles. Based on critical heritage studies and post-Western perspectives, contemporary patterns of development, sociocultural sustainability and cultural heritage concepts are discussed, to finally introduce the core elements of heritage's social function as an element for the achievement of sustainable development.

*Sustainability in Heritage Management Strategies* focuses on the role of sustainability on the basis of case studies that shed light on actual practice, beginning with Ron van Oers' paper *Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability*. The author contends that cultural heritage management has since entered a post-modern phase and is increasingly marked by integration pressures. By outlining a shift towards incorporating culturally contextualized, community-driven and development-oriented approaches, he also argues that because it is a "living entity" cultural heritage holds great potential for sustainable development. The paper addresses real-world applications and contrasts management strategies emanating from two case studies in China: the Historic Centre of Macau and the Sinan Mansions in central Shanghai.

The contribution on *World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism: A Multifaceted Relationship* by Carol Westrik reveals the damaging impacts of tourism on World Heritage properties. Pointing to recent cases in Italy and Croatia, the author advocates the development of a sustainable tourism management approach that is clearly linked to the maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value. A general approach with defined criteria, indicators and tools is needed. She is therefore calling for tourism's firm integration into heritage management procedures, via UNESCO's World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme adopted in 2012, because the programme offers practical hands-on tools, called "How To" Guides, to manage tourism in a sustainable way.

In his paper, *Heritage Impact Assessments as a Tool to Open Up Perspectives for Sustainability: Three Case Studies Related to Discussions Concerning the Visual Integrity of World Heritage Cultural and Urban Landscapes*, Michael Kloos reviews the constructions of the Waldschlösschen bridge in Dresden's Elbe Valley and the Golden Horn metro bridge in Istanbul, in addition to a planned building in Cologne. He recounts three instances where development has posed challenges to preservation, or more specifically to the visual integrity of a heritage site and examples of great controversies arising between local and international bodies. The paper promotes the potential of Heritage Impact Assessment as a powerful instrument that can enable all actors to visualize and evaluate a project's effect on a specific site and facilitate possible mediation options to resolve major disputes.



---

# I Introductory Reflections