

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

1-2 June 2023

UMR Hérítages : Culture/s, Patrimoine/s, Création/s - CY Cergy Paris Université

### Experience and Expertise of Glocalized Heritage: Imaginaries and Appropriations of World Heritage Religious Sites

This international conference aims to enlarge the discussion around the first results of the EXPER research project<sup>1</sup>, which studies the underexplored links between cultural imaginaries and the glocal uses of World Heritage sites characterized by both heritage and religious rituals. Although unique, such iconic sites generate powerful imaginaries in the eyes of spiritual, touristic, scholarly or civic communities, forming glocal spaces for sharing meanings and values. However, they also face divergent appropriation regimes and conflicts of uses. Since properties are inscribed by Unesco with a view to being preserved, we also wish to explore how the sites' very vulnerability to sudden or slow destruction (fire, floods, global warming, overtourism, etc.) impacts their relationship with users. Our objective is to learn from the varied EXPERiences and diverse EXPERTise of publics, stakeholders and professionals to improve site conservation, management, interpretation and mediation. Three sites inscribed on the World Heritage List have served as our starting point: "Paris, Banks of the Seine" (including Notre-Dame de Paris), the "Cultural Landscape of Sintra" and the site of Westminster (including Westminster Abbey) in London.

This conference wishes to confront a larger variety of international case studies and complementary theoretical frameworks to explore the research questions developed in the EXPER project:

- How do World Heritage religious sites participate in the construction of glocal imaginaries?
- What are the specific management, use and mediation issues for such sites faced with mass tourism?
- Do these sites create a glocal community? Around which values, spiritualities and with what effects?

We welcome papers aiming to better understand the representations, experiences and multiscalar appropriations associated to the sites to discuss the relationship between heritage, religion and spirituality. The aim is both to shed light on their fundamental role in the formation of global identities and to study their effects on the complexity of human interactions. The conference will more specifically address, in a transversal way, the following issues: glocal circulations of religious/spiritual/heritage/civic/touristic/environmental beliefs, values, rituals, representations; users' emotions, experiences and appropriations; the effect of the Unesco inscriptions on imaginaries and site management; the sites' approach to intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Multidisciplinary contributions, based on theory or ethnography, from discourse to practice, are called for from a diversity of social and human sciences, particularly those that will unveil the role of such sites in glocal communion or conflict, by exploring how heritage, spirituality and scales intersect in the following themes:

- **complex sites as universal commons or multifaceted commodities:** multi-ritualized, multi-heritagized, multi-spaced, multi-performative (religious/cultural/civic spaces and events, memorials, celebrations, etc.);
- **glocal imaginaries and appropriations from diverse publics:** past/present, onsite/remote, dominant/minority rituals and neo spiritualities (narratives, participation, poly-sensoriality, digital, etc.);
- **mitigating conflicts:** stakeholder's surveys; digital mapping; inclusive interpretation and mediation; contact zones and shared events versus dissociating publics (price policy, time / space allocation, etc.);
- **heritage/religion/nature in competition or mutually reinforcing:** sacrality and spirituality in environmental cultures; vulnerabilities, conservation and sustainable development; etc.

With the support of our partners, our results will inform the training of professionals, the management of sites and the design heritage policies.

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#### Format and Timeline

The conference will be held on **June 1-2 2023** in **Paris** (Cergy Paris université, Cergy-Pontoise and Médiathèque du Patrimoine et de la Photographie (MPP), Charenton-le-Pont). A visit to Notre-Dame de Paris will be organised.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://heritages.cyu.fr/version-francaise/programmes-scientifiques/projet-exper>

**Key speaker: Maria Gravari-Barbas**, Chaire Unesco « Culture, Tourisme, Développement », EIREST, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

**Paper abstracts** are due by **October 15, 2022**. Please send a summary (300 words max.), associated bibliography of up to 3 references and a biography with your current affiliation (150 words max.) to [exper2023conference@gmail.com](mailto:exper2023conference@gmail.com). Specify in your email title if you also wish to take part in the publication project (see below): "Abstract for conference (*and publication*)".

**Notification of acceptance** for the conference will be sent by **November 30, 2022**.

A **manuscript project** in English with an international editor will be coordinated by Cécile Doustaly and Clara Saraiva – corresponding editorial guidelines will be communicated to authors.

- First draft: chapters of 5000-7000 words to be submitted by May 1st 2023.
- Editorial review and feedback: chapters to be selected and reviewed. Notification of publication and comments will be returned to authors by June 15 2023.
- Final draft: all chapters resubmitted by July 15 2023.
- Full manuscript to be submitted to publisher by September 30 2023.

### Scientific Committee

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### Organising Committee

Cécile Doustaly, Clara Saraiva, Jonas Prinzleve

**Partners** : ICOMOS International ; Ministère de la Culture ; Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris, Chantier scientifique de Notre-Dame de Paris ; Association des scientifiques pour Notre-Dame ; Ville de Paris ; Casa France ; Médiathèque du Patrimoine et de la Photographie (MPP) ; Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine (FSP) ; Institute for National Heritage (INP) ; Institute for the Social Sciences, University of Lisbon ; Directorate General for Cultural Heritage (Portugal) ; ADP Association (Sintra) ; Alagamares Association (Sintra) ; Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies, SCAPVC-Arts Faculty / Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Warwick.

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