



Hotel staircase in Cairo - (Living with heritage)

Your handbook for *Unravelling Heritage: History, Theory and Methods*, 2025-26



(The making of a legend - the farmer who found the terracotta army and marketing)

UWTSD, Institute of Education and Humanities

This module will incorporate lectures (including guest lectures), Teams sessions, on-campus sessions (for on-campus students), guided reading and practical tasks.

Lecturer: Dr Katharina Zinn

Credits: 30

AIM(S)

- To enable students to explore the connections between Heritage activity and the political, legal and institutional contexts in which it is undertaken and to investigate how the past is conceived and represented in (and by) various Heritage agencies and providers.
- Enable students to select and apply appropriate methodologies for different types of research questions and to make informed judgements in the absence of complete data or evidence

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive and sophisticated knowledge of various methodologies, approaches and ethical issues faced in Heritage Studies as well as a critical understanding of the political, legal and institutional frameworks within which Heritage is conceived and practised;
- Show a sophisticated awareness of the various issues involved with the public display of, and engagement with, the material culture of the past as well as a critical grasp of the problematic nature of the provenance, survival, meaning and significance of artefacts and source materials.

Syllabus: I expect you to have read the literature **prior** to each session!!!!

The module runs over 10 weeks and has an equivalent of 3 hours contact time per week. I will pre-record the lectures and will offer discussion sessions / seminars. There will also be contact via FORUM for some sessions. Seminars will be at a set time which allows all of us to participate – time will be established once I know the full cohort of the module. They will be 1 hour. I recommend strongly that also the distance students among you try to join in the discussion synchronously if possible, on-campus students have to. The **discussion paper session** (for peer review before submission) will be about 2-3 hours and is **compulsory for all to attend** via TEAMS or in class. The lectures will be pre-recorded and the seminars recorded in class.

SESSION	Topic	Readings and tasks
Sess 1 01/10/ 25	Introduction to the course – aims and topics	
	Defining heritage: cultural, tangible, intangible	Harrison. 2010. Chapter 1 Harrison. 2013. 1-41 (chapter 1+2)
Sess 2 08/10/ 25	Discussing your preferred definition	“settle” for one definition, you find best applicable and defend this one to your colleague students
	Heritage and Cultural Memory	Urry: How societies remember the past (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 2) Smith: Heritage, ch. 2
Sess 3 17/10/ 25	Heritage methodologies Case Study – All in the name of heritage?!	Harrison. 2020. To be discussed: • An Egyptomania House Tour → https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nfCXmg-KEw

		Lost Treasures of Egypt S1, Episode 3 Cleopatra's Lost Tomb
Sess 4 22/10/ 2025	Heritage Ecologies and Heritage Tourism	Brabec 2015 Poria, Butler, Airey. 2003
26/10	Submission of Assessment 1 - Review of a newspaper article (20% of module mark, 1500 words)	
Sess 5 29/10/ 2025	Heritage and Identity 1: Heritage in Wales	The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales / Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru
Sess 6 05/11/ 2025	Heritage and Identity 2: Pharaonic heritage in modern Egypt	Abd el-Gawad / Stevenson. 2021
Sess 7 12/11/ 2025	Heritage and Identity 3 The concept of heritage in China	Shepherd / Yu. 2013 → chapters 2+3
Sess 8 03/12/ 2025	What are museums? Museums as heritage institutions – a short introduction	Macdonald: Companion, h. 1-3, 26, chapter 13 Ambrose/Paine: Museum's Basics Hooper-Greenhill: Museums Knowledge, ch 1, 7 Prösler: Museums and Globalization (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 1) Kavanagh: Museum provision, esp. ch. 1+2 Vergo: New Museology, ch. 1 Dicks: Encoding and Decoding the People CyMAL Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales. <i>A Museums Strategy for Wales</i> Zolberg: Museums as contested sites of remembrance (Macdonald/Fyfe, ch. 3)
Sess 9 10/12/ 2025	Museums in time, space and networks: agencies of the institution, the object, the visitor and the wider audience 12/12 Submission of draft Discussion Paper (MOODLE, in Forum for week 10)	Dolan. 2022 → chapters 5 & 6 Macdonald: Companion, part IV Byrne (et.al.): Networks, Agents and Objects (Byrne: Unpacking the Collection, ch. 1) Bennett: Civic laboratories Museums, nations, identities Conn: Do museums, chapter 1,5 + 6 Day; Wagner: Objects as tools for talk (Neville, et.al.: Interacting with objects, 101-124) Kavanagh: Museum provision, esp. ch. 33 Harrison: Heritage as social action (West, ch.7) Hooper-Greenhill: Museum, media, message, ch. 1 + 11 Hooper-Greenhill: Museums and their visitors, ch. 2,3+9 Smith: Heritage, ch. 5
04/01/ 2026	Submission of Assessment 2 - Essay (40% of overall module mark, 3500 words)	

Sess 10	Discussion paper workshop (preparing Assessment 3)	Read at least one other discussion paper and give feedback
07/01/2026	Unravelled enough or still puzzled?!? Summarise the module	
13/01/2026	Submission of Assessment 3 – Discussion Paper (40% of overall module mark, 2500 words)	

ASSESSMENT

All of your assessment components are coursework related. You will have to attempt and submit each of the three assessments and pass overall in order to pass the module.

The following Late Submission Penalties apply: Up to 1 week late (50% Max), Over 1 week late (0%)

Assessment 1 - Review of a newspaper article (20% of module mark, 1500 words, to be submitted via Turnitin on 26/10/2025 @23:59) → return date provisional marks and feedback latest by 24/11/2025 @9am

In this assignment, you are asked to read the following academic article and to provide a critical review and analysis of its contents thinking about the dichotomy of tangible and intangible heritage.

I would expect about 5-10 references in total.

Fiadotava, A. (2025) 'Humour as cultural heritage', *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, pp. 1–17. doi: 10.1080/13527258.2025.2557837. (available Open Access or via UWTSD catalogue)

Your review should include an explanation of what the paper is about, what theoretical perspective it is written from, and how the argument is formulated, as well as providing an evaluation of its methods/results/conclusions as appropriate. For example you might think about whether there are any limitations to the paper and whether the conclusions are supported. Base this on additional reading which you need to reference properly and include into a bibliography.

Assessment 2 - Essay (40% of overall module mark, 3500 words, to be submitted via Turnitin 04/01/2026) → return date provisional marks and feedback 02/02/2026 @9am

Choose ONE of the following questions

1. Discuss the following statement by providing examples: Should all museum collections be on public display?
2. Should historic buildings be managed to prioritise their historical or present function and what are the potential consequences for each decision?

Assessment 3 – Discussion Paper (40% of overall module mark, 2500 words, to be submitted via Turnitin 13/01/2026) → return date provisional marks and feedback latest by 10/02/2026

Develop an original research topic on an aspect of heritage in agreement with the module lecturer and present that as a discussion paper. A discussion paper is close to a proposal or abstract, it will introduce your potential research topic to the class and will allow an introducer to convey to the class and facilitate discussion. It would therefore be helpful to not only introduce the context, aim/objectives, but also provide questions to stimulate discussion.

This topic can be from any area of heritage studies or heritage practice (built environment, audience studies, museum studies, connecting history and heritage, community engagement, analysis of museum display, role of museums for identity, ...).

Emphasis will be placed on the application of theories, frameworks and topics presented and discussed throughout the module; i.e. students will be expected to integrate original archival, material culture or bibliographic research and (if appropriate) their knowledge and understanding of heritage institutions.

In order to facilitate discussion in session 10 and allow a fellow classmate to introduce your paper / give you a peer review before submission, you are asked to **submit a draft of the paper by 12/12/2025 (week 9)** which we will **discuss in class in week 10 (07/01/2025)**. In preparation for this class, each student has to read and **comment on at least one other discussion paper** in the specific weekly forum on MOODLE.

After the peer-review and discussion, you will have a few days to edit the draft already submitted and submit the paper as assessment via Turnitin (13/01/2026).

Submission deadline:	1. 26/10/2025 2. 04/01/2026 3. 13/01/2026	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	1. 24/11/2025 2. 02/02/2026 3. 10/02/2026
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Essential Reading:

- Apaydin, V. (ed.) 2020. Critical Perspectives on Cultural Memory and Heritage Construction, Transformation and Destruction. London: UCL Press.
- Barndt, K., Jaeger, S. 2024. Museums, Narratives, and Critical Histories: Narrating the Past for the Present and Future. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter.
- Benton, T. 2010. Understanding heritage and memory. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Corsane, G. 2005. Heritage, Museums and Galleries: an introductory reader. London: Routledge.
- Harrison, R. 2010. Understanding the Politics of Heritage. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Harrison, R. 2013. Heritage: Critical approaches. Abington: Routledge.
- Harrison, R. et al. 2020. Heritage Futures: Comparative Approaches to Natural and Cultural Heritage Practices. London: UCL Press.

- Howard, P. 2003. *Heritage: Management, Interpretation, Identity*. London: Continuum.
- Howard, P., Graham, B. 2008. *The Routledge Research Companion to Heritage and Identity*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Meskell, L. 2015. *Global Heritage: A Reader*. Malden: Wiley Blackwell.
- Silverman, H., Waterton, E., Watson, S. 2017. *Heritage in Action: Making the Past in the Present*. Cham: Springer.
- Smith, L. 2006. *Uses of Heritage*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Sørensen, M.-L., John Carman, J. 2009. *Heritage Studies: Methods and Approaches*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- West, S. 2010. *Understanding Heritage in Practice*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Further Reading:

- Abd el-Gawad H, Stevenson A. 2021. Egypt's dispersed heritage: Multi-directional storytelling through comic art. *Journal of Social Archaeology*. 21(2021)1. 121-145.
- Bakshi, A. 2017. *Topographies of Memories: A New Poetics of Commemoration*. Cham: Palgrave.
- Brabec, C. 2015. Toward an Ecology of Cultural Heritage. *Change Over Time* 5(2015)2, pp. 266-285.
- Carruthers, W. 2022. *Flooded Pasts: UNESCO, Nubia, and the Recolonization of Archaeology*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
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- Hillerdal, C., Karlström, A., Ojala, G.-G. 2017. *Archaeologies of "Us" and "Them": Debating History, Heritage and Indigeneity*. London: Routledge.
- Kila, J.D., Herndon, C.V. 2017. *The Wicked Problem of Cultural Heritage and Conflict: Military involvement in the protection and devastation of Cultural Property*. Connecticut: Colonel Publishing.
- Koerner, S., Russell, I. 2016. *Unquiet Pasts: Risk Society, Lived Cultural Heritage, Re-designing Reflexivity*. London: Routledge.
- Makuvaza, S. 2018. *Aspects of Management Planning for Cultural World Heritage Sites Principles, Approaches and Practices*. Cham: Springer.
- Melman, B. *Empires of Antiquities: Modernity and the Rediscovery of the Ancient Near East, 1914–1950*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. (especially part IV, chs. 8-10).
- Poria, Butler, Airey. 2003. The core of heritage tourism. *Annals of tourism research*, 30(2003)1, p.238-254.
- Shepherd, R.J., Yu, L. 2013. *Heritage Management, Tourism, and Governance in China: Managing the Past to Serve the Present*. New York: Springer. → chapters 2+3.
- Smith, L. 2006. *Uses of Heritage*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Smith, L. 2021. *Emotional heritage: visitor engagement at museums and heritage sites*. London: Routledge.
- Smith, L.J and Waterton, E. 2009. *Heritage, Communities and Archaeology*. Duckworth.

Readings for Case Study Museums (session 7-10):

- Macdonald, S. 2011. *A Companion to Museums Studies*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Ambrose, T.; Paine, C. 2006. *Museum Basics*. 2nd ed.
- Corsane, G. 2005. *Heritage, Museums and Galleries: an introductory reader*. London: Routledge.
- Dolák, J. 2022. *Museology and its theory* / Jan Dolák ; translation: Stuart Roberts. -- In Brno : Technical Museum.

Further Readings for Museums:

- Alexander, E.P. 1996. *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Pr.

- Arnold, K. 2006. *Cabinets for the curious: looking back at early English museums*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Bennett, T. 1995. The birth of the museum: history, theory, politics
- Bennett, T. 2004. *Pasts Beyond Memory: Evolution, Museums, Colonialism*. London: Routledge.
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- Boylan, P.J. 1992. *Museum 2000: politics, people, professionals and profit*. London: Routledge.
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- Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1999. *Museum, media, message*. London: Routledge.
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- Macdonald, S.; Fyfe, G. (eds.) 1996. *Theorizing Museums: Representing identity and diversity in a changing world*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Meskell, L. 2004. *Object Worlds in Ancient Egypt: Material Biographies Past and Present*. Oxford: Berg.
- Moser, S. 2006. *Wondrous Curiosities: Ancient Egypt at the British Museum*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Pr.
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Katharina Zinn

Dr Katharina Zinn



Xian November 2023, Wild Goose Pagoda – living heritage