Theorizing Gender in Heritage Studies

Gender studies constitute today a broad and dynamic interdisciplinary research field – including theoretical perspectives from, for instance, Feminist studies, Women’s studies, Equality research, Masculinity studies, Post-colonial theory, Queer theory, Sexuality studies, Intersectionality and Feminist TechnoScience studies. However, the influence of Gender Studies within the field of Heritage Studies seems to have been rather weak so far. This session aims at gathering existing and planned research that combines various kinds of gender perspectives with examinations of the field of cultural heritage. The session welcomes contributions and encourages discussions problematizing the relation between heritage and gender in a broad sense. Questions concerning how gender and heritage are intertwined and have been created and transformed in past and present, and what consequences this has, will be emphasized. Not only historical connections between heritage and gender will be in focus, but also present time visual representations and discourses. The session calls for papers that will examine the heritage field from any of the above mentioned or other relevant gender perspectives. In focus are such issues as: which various kinds of gender perspectives can be used to analyse the field of cultural heritage; how is heritage and gender interlinked; how are these processes interrelated to other social categories such as class, ethnicity, sexuality, race, functional disorder etc; is a societal subjugation of certain groups reproduced in the field of cultural heritage; by which processes and mechanisms is this effectuated; what kind of gender constructions can be found within the heritage field; are these constructions stereotype, neutral or alternative representations of gender; does it matter what kind of gender construction that is linked to heritage; if so, what consequences do the various kinds of gender constructions entail and what implications does this have for cultural heritage management in the future?

The following themes could be relevant for this session:

- Critical heritage theory
- Heritage, power and recognition
- Heritage and human rights
- Issues of representation

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