

13th Cambridge Heritage Seminar
HERITAGE STUDIES: STORIES IN THE MAKING
*28 April 2012, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site,
University of Cambridge*

Twenty-two years ago, the Division of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, first introduced the study of heritage to its curriculum. The introduction coincided with a moment of confrontation between various approaches to the study of the material past. Heritage was seen by many as a post-modern baby, a result of government pressure to make the study and preservation of the past pay for itself. With a boom in the building of museums, the declaration of heritage sites and the increased visibility of English Heritage and the National Trust, heritage studies were, often disparagingly, represented as the management of the past, dealing with counting 'bums on seats' and generally commercializing the past.

Our understanding of heritage has come a long way since then. It has expanded to include the realm of the intangible, practices and traditions, know-how and beliefs, and diverse forms of expressions. Heritage Studies has delved into the terrains of war and politics, of memory and identity, of the construction of meaning and value, and of sustainable forward-looking uses of heritage. It has questioned power structures and critically tackled outdated frameworks of thought and analysis. Above all it has been reflective, questioning itself, and the repercussions of decisions and definitions made to today.

Throughout this period, a generation of students and researchers has passed through the heritage programme at the University of Cambridge. For this, the 13th edition of the Cambridge Heritage Seminar, we propose to bring our alumni back to share their professional experiences, thoughts and narratives of where Heritage Studies has led them. Our intention is to weave together an image of the evolution of the heritage field and its stories in the making.

We invite you all to Cambridge for a day of lectures, panel discussions and seminars.

Practical information:

We are unfortunately not able to provide financial support for the conference, and have to charge a modest fee for lunch and coffee/tea (£ 24 for waged and £ 12 for students).

We are not able to organize accommodation, but are happy to provide advice. Please contact the accommodation officer, Calum Robertson at [cas207\[at\]cam.ac.uk](mailto:cas207[at]cam.ac.uk).

For information specifically regarding registration, contact Cydney Stasiulis at [cgr23\[at\]cam.ac.uk](mailto:cgr23[at]cam.ac.uk).

For general inquiries about CHS13 *Heritage Studies: Stories in the Making*, contact Meghan Bowe at [mkb40\[at\]cam.ac.uk](mailto:mkb40[at]cam.ac.uk) or Marie Louise Stig Sørensen at [mlss\[at\]cam.ac.uk](mailto:mlss[at]cam.ac.uk).