

Collective and personal identity alike are firmly rooted in the past, and especially in challenging times this connection is emphasised to strengthen specific narratives. Heritage, both tangible and intangible, is thus a potential force of both inclusion as well as exclusion. How these processes work, the manner in which the past is used, and detailing the link between heritage and identity, are core themes of the cluster Heritage and Identification.

Future research will be set out along two routes. These routes converge under the topic *Community and Migrant Heritage in a Globalising World* (CMH). The first route emphasises political and social processes, the second works from the observation that *things* play a particular role in these processes.

1. *Uses of the past and the role of heritage* (UPH)

Local communities progressively relate to the past using tangible and intangible heritage as markers for identity. How does this work? What kind of practices are used to incorporate heritage in the self-image of the community? How is popular history created, and what role does popular culture play in this process? How do people adapt or abandon heritage over time? How do contemporary politics and heritage relate at a local level, but also at a national and international level? What happens when people migrate and how does that effect the development of heritage? What is the role of memory in the appreciation of heritage?

In small-scale seminars as well as in joint courses and publications LDE researchers and students will discuss practices of the use of heritage, local involvement, and the political implications of the use of heritage. In *Uses of the past and the role of heritage* at least one research proposal with two or three LDE partners will be developed in 2017.

2. *Tangible past and present* (TPP)

Detailing the link between heritage and identity we can observe that material objects play a particular role and are central to problems of heritage use and its social and political implications. In the past and the present material heritage is also continuously collected by museums and private persons. Comprehending the agency and materiality of objects, but also architecture, city- and landscapes, seems to be the key to an increased appreciation of authenticity, craftsmanship, and feelings of belonging. In a rapidly changing world material items at least form an anchor that can be used for identity building and for constructing a feeling of security. Crafting, consuming, and collecting things are all distinct routes of meaning-making. Heritage – in the form of architecture, design, or craft – is a potential instrument to bolster tradition, or social contestation and activism. It follows that heritage affects the notion of citizenship and can even create novel communities through which people can identify.

As with the UPH programme small-scale seminars and intensive discussions within groups of LDE scholars will result in common products. In 2017, at least one research proposal for the CGHD will be written.

Procedures

Two instruments are important in building up a research community around these themes and to stimulate future research into heritage and identity. First, it is important to engage in activities that extend the CGHD network in order to build a fruitful network of researchers. We aim to create a strong relationship with several academic courses in Leiden, Rotterdam and Delft. In Leiden a close relationship between the *Community and Migrant Heritage in a Globalising World* (CMH) theme and the new joint BA programme of archaeology and anthropology is the most obvious choice. In Rotterdam a close link between CMH and the MA programme in the History Department is envisioned. This is needed to strengthen research proposals, but also for PR and marketing reasons as the *Heritage and Identity* group explicitly seeks for dissemination of knowledge. Second, small scale research seminars will be organized to bring together these researchers and to stimulate (particularly young) scholars to write proposals for funding. Seed money is available for such activities.

Activities 2017

- The TPP programme links up with the Material Agency Forum (MAF), a Leiden based research group with an overlapping interest in the agency of things, and with a strong international network.
- Research Seminar: "Heritage: Agency and Appropriation" in Rotterdam
- Collecting Asia symposium @RMO (Leiden Asia Year)
- Expert day on Crafts and Identities
- In 2017, at least one research proposal for the CGHD will be written.