Heritage and China

Friday, 18 March 3:00–5:00pm

Introductory Remarks
Benjamin Penny
Australian Centre on China in the World
Laurajane Smith
Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies

Chair
Yujie Zhu
Australian Centre on China in the World

Speakers
Susette Cooke
China Studies Centre, University of Sydney
Catherine Ingram
Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
Christina Maags
Australian Centre on China in the World and Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
Ken Taylor
Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies
Luigi Tomba
Australian Centre on China in the World
Jieyi Xie
Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies

Location
Seminar Room
China in the World Building (#188), Fellows Lane, ANU

Further information
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As a result of the ideological shift toward the revitalization of ‘traditional culture’ (chuantong wenhua 傳統文化), China ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1985. To date, the country has had forty-eight of its national sites listed as World Heritage sites. During an era of profound political and socio-economic transformations, the central state has recognised the significance of conserving culture to construct a national identity and promote Chinese civilization. Cultural heritage has been discursively framed as an ‘invented tradition’ to construct a harmonious and continuous past and to reinforce national coherence and collective memory. The Chinese government emphasizes the significance of the nation as a distinct entity deserving the world’s recognition and respect, an action that has been framed by Wang Gungwu as ‘restorative nationalism.’

By addressing ‘heritage’ in relation to the process of modernization in China, this roundtable seeks to investigate the dynamic communication between global heritage policies and local practices. Heritage in China does not only contribute to the building of national ideologies, but also facilitate other practices in the new era of economic and cultural globalisation, such as cultural diplomacy, economic development, urban renewal, diaspora, and ethnic solidarity. We hope to create an interdisciplinary dialogue between Chinese Studies and Heritage Studies to further our empirical and theoretical understanding of heritage in China.

Presented by
The Australian Centre on China in the World
The Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies