
This item was submitted to [Loughborough's Research Repository](#) by the author.
Items in Figshare are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

New perspectives in urban heritage – Theory, policy, and practice [Editorial]

PLEASE CITE THE PUBLISHED VERSION

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17567505.2018.1525949>

PUBLISHER

© Taylor & Francis (Routledge)

VERSION

AM (Accepted Manuscript)

PUBLISHER STATEMENT

This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published by Taylor & Francis in *The Historic Environment: Policy & Practice* on 24 September 2018, available online:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/10.1080/17567505.2018.1525949>.

LICENCE

CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

REPOSITORY RECORD

Palaiologou, Falli, and Kalliopi Fouseki. 2018. "New Perspectives in Urban Heritage – Theory, Policy, and Practice [editorial]". figshare. <https://hdl.handle.net/2134/35034>.

New perspectives in urban heritage – Theory, policy, and practice

Garyfalia Palaiologou^{a*} and Kalliopi Fouseki^b

This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published by Taylor & Francis in The Historic Environment: Policy and practice, on 24 September 2018, available online:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17567505.2018.1525949>

^a *School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leics, UK;*

^b *Institute for Sustainable Heritage, University College London, London, UK.*

* School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3TU. Email: g.palaiologou@lboro.ac.uk

Garyfalia (Falli) Palaiologou is a Lecturer in Architecture and Urban Studies at Loughborough University, UK. Earlier she was Research Fellow at the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture at the Space Syntax Laboratory, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). She holds a PhD in Architectural and Urban Morphology, and a Master's in Advanced Architectural Studies from UCL. Her PhD research investigated the 20th century urban transformation of London terraced houses and Manhattan row houses, focusing on street micromorphology and street liveability. Her post-doctoral research looked at the use of space syntax methods to rethink delimitation practices for UNESCO historic urban landscapes. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2000-1081>; twitter: [@falli_p](https://twitter.com/falli_p)

Kalliopi Fouseki is a Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Heritage at the UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage where she directs the MSc in Sustainable Heritage and the Research Strand on Heritage Risk and Resilience. Prior to UCL, Kalliopi worked at the University of York, Open University of Cyprus, Open University of Greece and Open University of UK as well as the Science Museum of London, the Acropolis Museum and the archaeological museum of Ancient Olympia. Her current research revolves around heritage and sustainable development with particular emphasis on heritage-led regeneration in urban and rural areas.

New perspectives in urban heritage: Theory, policy, and practice

Background

This Special Issue was developed in continuation of the dialogue between urban heritage research and practice that was initiated in March 2017, at The Bartlett UCL's Historic Urban Landscape Forum (HUL Forum). HUL Forum was co-organized by the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture and the UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage under the patronage of UNESCO. This international networking and think-tank forum, brought together for constructive debate academic researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and stakeholders who are experienced, interested or invested in the historical urban environment.¹

Reflecting on the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals² with particular emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) that makes explicit reference to urban heritage conservation, HUL Forum called for a reconceptualization of heritage policymaking to acknowledge urbanity and heritage as interactive and interdependent processes. The reference to heritage in SDG11 provides an opportunity as well as a risk for urban heritage. SDG11 is an opportunity because it signifies a start for policy-makers to consider heritage in sustainable development programmes. At the same time, it is a risk because urban heritage and its linkage to sustainable development is narrowly identified with urban heritage conservation that is

¹ More information on HUL Forum and the proceedings are available at the event website: < <http://hulforum.org/> > [Accessed 20 August 2018]

² Available at: < <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> > [Accessed 20 August 2018]

threatened by development. As argued in this special issue by Fouseki and Nicolau the HUL Recommendation reflects a similar stance. Hence, HUL Forum addresses specifically the *2011 Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation* by UNESCO because of the international attention this guidance has achieved in heritage management studies. The 2011 Recommendation's declared goal is to rethink urban conservation beyond objects and sites and to consider instead the urban landscape in terms of evolving systems and processes. HUL Forum scrutinised proposed application methods, the relevance and future of the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Approach in relation to national and international mechanisms of urban heritage management and practice³.

The need for new perspectives in urban heritage

Contributions in this Special Issue reveal challenges and prospects for the integration of SDG11 and urban heritage agendas by addressing timely theoretical, policy-related, methodological and technical limitations. Two common standpoints underpin work presented in this issue: *first*, the endeavour to formulate new approaches for urban heritage practice and sustainable development via the exploration of interdisciplinary interfaces: urban conservation with urban geography and urban planning (Dennis Rodwell); cultural heritage and environmental psychology (Susana Alves); heritage-led regeneration and environmental sustainability (Fouseki and Nicolau); urban heritage, architecture and planning (Sophia Psarra); spatial history and space syntax with urban heritage (Zaninović et al.); urban characterisation practices and digitised survey data

³ HUL Forum proceedings available at: < <http://hulforum.org/proceedings/> > [Accessed 20 August 2018]

technological developments (Polly Hudson); and finally, procedural modelling (Roumpani et al.) for testing of urban planning scenarios and simulating building regulation frameworks (both historical and proposed). *Second*, the contributions put forward a critical reflection on the 2011 Recommendation to constructively propose ways towards inclusive policymaking and forward-looking implementation tools. The multidimensionality of issues discussed by the authors suggest the need for re-conceptualisation of policy-promoted heritage definitions and action goals to better reflect heritage as emergent process which plays a formative role in the urban landscape (cultural and natural).

Dennis Rodwell, in ‘The Historic Urban Landscape and the geography of urban heritage’, opens this Special Issue by setting the policy and practice problem scene with two key observations. First, the author questions the newness and potential effectiveness of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape by arguing how the Recommendation narrative is established on authorised heritage idea(1)s. Authorised rhetoric is translated into policymaking of delimitation practices – an oxymoron of the recommendation since it opposes the principles of landscape-oriented and inclusive conservation. Second, examples coming from the author’s long-standing practice in the urban heritage sector illustrate an interdisciplinary gap between urban planning and urban conservation. These shortcomings are argued to foster fragmentation of urban heritage and urban sustainability agendas. Rodwell proposes how a constructive conceptual and practical link is found through disciplinary integration with the field of urban geography, and calls for re-orientation of the heritage policy discourse towards appreciating the geographer’s perspective on the urban landscape.

Susana Alves addresses another important shortcoming in heritage management, which still fails to incorporate an inclusive and expanded view of culture in appreciation of diverse ontological symbolisms according to different cultural groups. In 'Understanding intangible aspects of cultural heritage: The role of active imagination', Alves proposes the use of *active imagination* to consider intangible aspects of heritage as creations of human perception. The author analyses the philosophical premises of collective conscious and unconscious cosmologies to argue how distanced notions of past and present can be interconnected in the creative realm of human imagination. For Alves, redefinition of the origins and nature of intangible meaning in heritage theory should happen in dialogue with disciplines like environmental psychology, anthropology, and mythology. In policy and practice, Alves discusses how creativity and imagination can be re-activated through architecture and built environment practice by appreciating, cultivating and protecting intangible dimensions of the quotidian city and everyday modes of living.

Fouseki and Nicolau propose a new model for sustainable heritage-led urban regeneration that has communities and sustainable lifestyles at its core. They do this by first developing an urban heritage dynamics theory that regards heritage cities as complex and dynamics systems of multiple socio-political, environmental, economic and heritage/cultural dimensions. Given the complexity of cities, it is challenging to identify in what ways a heritage-led regeneration programme can contribute to sustainable development. The authors argue for the adoption of systems thinking and system dynamics as a suitable method to unpack this challenging question. They apply the method on one of the most systematic, longitudinal studies of heritage-led regeneration in the UK (that of the Townscape Heritage Initiative). They conclude that community involvement and concerted strategic planning are the most critical factors. They also note

the absence of environmental concerns. On this basis, they propose a new model for sustainable heritage-led regeneration that has sustainable lifestyles and community participation at its heart.

Sophia Psarra, in a way, picks up from Alves and elaborates on the creation of civic myth, ritual and symbolism in the urban landscape by means of anonymous collective and incremental building processes on the one hand, and authored design and planning practice on the other hand. Psarra takes us back to the fifteenth and sixteenth century city of Venice to revisit its transition from medieval informal settlement to a top-down architectural hierarchy and scenography that constructed a new dominant political identity of an ideal city. In analysing and contextualising the Venetian architectural historiography, the author identifies how urban conservation ideals that followed in the twentieth century are fundamentally influenced by the development of architecture as curatorial discipline for the city. She insightfully notes that the heritage sector needs to better understand its origins in and liaisons with disciplines involved in the production of urban space to be able to address its interdisciplinary inheritance. In Venice, the medieval spatial and canal networks as social space in contrast to the political space of official public spaces (i.e. piazzas, theatres etc.) are evidence to the co-existence of many cultural landscapes (tangible and intangible) for and from different local communities. Heritage policy needs to be able to acknowledge and interpret not only the tangible symbolism of the scenic city, but all multifarious and often conflicting forces with resulting emergent, informal and evolving agency acting in the urban landscape.

Continuing on the theme of spatial networks, Zaninović et al. look at the spatial history of urban streets in Zagreb, Croatia, focusing on the urban transformation of streets which have been historical 'gateway-pathways'. These are distinct routes which

historically connect the urban core to its wider landscape surroundings – namely, spatial elements with functional prominence in the formation processes of the urban landscape. This new urban street typology is then used as case study to examine whether spatial characteristics may indicate a dismissed type of heritage in the urban landscape – that is ‘spatial heritage’. The article explores the theoretical confluence of urban heritage studies and space syntax to propose how ordinary space, and specifically urban streets, seen as cultural entity is relevant to sustainability discourses. The methodology appropriates a seminal analytical approach of space syntax (transect analysis) and proposes a new measure (transect density) to quantitatively describe and identify the spatial heritage of gateway-pathways. Results suggest the possibility for syntactic analysis to identify historically significant streets and opens the way for mathematical validation of everyday tangible heritages beyond aesthetic and visual criteria.

The last two article contributions in this Special Issue are of particular significance as they define future trajectories in heritage research and practice that emerge from innovative developments in city data science. In ‘Urban characterisation; Expanding applications for, and new approaches to building attribute data capture’, Polly Hudson offers a constructive review of research developments in methods and tools for the collection and generation of spatial data on geo-located information at the building scale (e.g. physical character, age, land use etc.). Selected examples of existing applications of building attribute data, which come from various urban science research fields but are relevant to heritage studies, show unprecedented potentials for the historical study of urban processes affecting the behaviour of the building stock over time. This pertains insightful contributions not only for sustainable urban development practices, but also for urban conservation and evidence-based assessment of the

performance of historical building stocks at multiple levels (e.g. environmental, social, economic, cultural).

Roumpani et al. propose a digitisation of the historical urban landscape that extends beyond normative archival uses to an interactive, adjustable and updatable knowledge-generation 3D visualisation platform. The paper uses procedural modeling for the 3D generation of ‘what if’ scenarios in urban conservation. It demonstrates the deployment of City Engine to model nineteenth century urban blocks and buildings, specifically, mid Victorian houses in historical London Borough of Camden. The case study uses information on building age and footprints data in combination with historical building regulations as a basis for procedural visualisation of various rule-based scenarios that are produced after the definition of Computer Generated Architecture (CGA) rules (e.g. a procedural Victorian ruleset). The authors identify how heritage research and practice on the urban landscape can benefit from the dynamic application of 3D modelling of the historical city in many ways – e.g. visual reconstruction of urban pasts for research purposes and/or to assess the management insofar of the historical building stock; testing and evaluating anticipated impact from urban regeneration plans, demolition decisions, and prospective changes in building regulation; calculating energy related and other environmental indicators affecting sustainability with the use of geometry-based urban data.

Insights from practice

The Special Issue concludes with views from practice offering insights from the forefront of policymaking at international and national institutions. In her viewpoint, Yonca Erkan, HUL/World Heritage Cities Programme Coordinator, echoes the programmatic aspiration of the HUL Recommendation and visualises the ways forward as seen from the lenses of the global institution. The two final scoping pieces articulate

application scenarios for the HUL Recommendation and prompt conflicts of the international approach with the local operational contexts: Julia Rey-Pérez and Daniela Valencia Avellán discuss the case of Guayaquil waterfront in Guayaquil, Ecuador; and SUN Yan draws on experiences and lesson learnt from a project for the World Heritage nomination in 2017 of island Kulangsu in China.

Overall, this Special Issue is a call for the heritage sector to open up to other disciplines and encourage transactions of theoretical ideas, tools and practices in order to proactively claim the role of culture in the making of sustainable urban futures.

Acknowledgements:

The Editors are thankful to the UCL Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment for generously funding the Historic Urban Landscape Forum via a Bartlett Synergy Grant. We are also thankful to Dr Michael Dawson, Dr Roger White, and the Editorial board of *The Historic Environment: Policy and Practice* for giving us a venue to publish this Special Issue. Our thanks to Peter Gane, Kavitha Loganathan and Mohammed Ismail from the production team. Finally, and most importantly, we wish to compliment all authors and reviewers for their hard work and valuable contributions that made this publication possible.