

Heritage Diplomacy and the crafting of international conservation policy

Speaker:	Professor Tim Winter Research Chair of Cultural Heritage Deakin University, Australia
Chair:	TC Chang, Department of Geography, NUS
Date/Time:	Friday, 14 November 2014, 3.30 – 5.00 pm
Place:	Earth Lab (AS2 02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

Abstract

This talk explores the idea of heritage diplomacy. At a time of shifting economic power and resurgent nationalism, both culture and nature continue to be mobilised within today's international political economy. Ample evidence for this can be found in the arena of World Heritage, both on the ground and across UNESCO's bureaucratic structures. In observing such trends, numerous commentators have expressed concern about a growing crisis, and the descent of world heritage into a quagmire of politicisation and geopolitics.

Focusing on recent World Heritage Committee meetings, this presentation foregrounds a reading of those subtle and complex diplomatic entanglements that sit both within and beyond the system. Accordingly, it is suggested that world heritage provides a uniquely important forum for diplomatic gestures, cooperation and the active participation of smaller nations on the international stage. Singapore's orchid diplomacy, Japanese industrial landscapes and archaeological sites in Myanmar are presented as examples of how intergovernmental modes of governance are enabling new modes of bilateral cooperation in Asia.

Heritage diplomacy thus seeks to both complicate the picture of politicisation and allow us to ask more fine-grained questions about the possible futures of World Heritage and the governance of culture and nature more generally.

About the Speaker



Tim Winter is Research Professor at the Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Deakin University, Melbourne. He has published widely on heritage, development, modernity, urban conservation, tourism and heritage diplomacy in Asia.

He has been a consultant for the World Bank, Getty Conservation Institute, World Monuments Fund and Japanese Team for Safeguarding Angkor, and been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge, The Getty and University College London, Qatar.

His recent books include *The Routledge Handbook of Heritage in Asia* and *Shanghai Expo: an international forum on the future of cities*.

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