



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

Name: Emma

Surname: Waterton

Nationality of author: British/Australian

Language of thesis: English

Title of thesis: Rhetoric and Reality: Politics, Policy and the Discourses of Heritage in England

Type of thesis: Ph. D.

Supervisor of thesis:

Dr. Laurajane Smith

Institution of Supervisor:

University of York

The King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York, YO1 7EP

Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

The idea of 'heritage' has, in the past, been taken to be relatively problem-free. Indeed, it has only received muted emphasis in debates concerned with the conservation, interpretation and management of 'heritage'. However, a widening range of meanings regarding 'heritage' is becoming increasingly visible, particularly at the international level. Understanding how these meanings interact is now important, particularly in terms of determining the flexibility or restrictions that may occur when dominant expressions of 'heritage' intersect with competing and alternative views.

To explore this intersection, my research takes a two-fold starting point: the first draws from the shifting nature of Cultural Heritage Management in the UK as it responds to calls for social inclusion; and the second takes interest in the broader issues recognised on an international scale, such as the increasing emphasis on intangibility, experience and folklore. Although there are a number of ways by which to explore this, my research takes up an explicitly 'policy-orientated' focus, and is thus concerned with various acts of legislation, policy documents, guidance notes, charters and conventions. Using discourse-analytical strategies, these texts are unpacked to reveal the discursive formations that mediate and determine a particular approach to the management of 'heritage'.