



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Title of thesis: On institutions, paths, and routes set in stone:
The demise of the Unesco-World Heritage program in Dresden

Type of thesis: PhD

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

This dissertation brings together institutional and path dependence theories to report on a conflict relating to the construction of a four-lane bridge in the Unesco-World Heritage Site 'Dresden and the Elbe Valley'.

The bridge project, triggered in 1994, became subject of critics from the Unesco-World Heritage Center. On June 25, 2009, because a consensus could not be reached, the site was deleted from the seminal World Heritage list. Losing such a certification is linked with great losses in image and resources.

This case of puzzling organizational stubbornness allows for the inspection of rigidities in projects considered sub-optimal, and for the social mechanisms supporting this phenomenon of persistence.

Historical case analysis methods are used to cover 15 years of project duration.

Bibliographical References (Abstract)

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