

HERITAGE AND DEMOCRACY

Annual Conference

AKTLD Arbeitskreis für Theorie und Denkmalpflege
in collaboration with Coventry University

COVENTRY 3. - 6. October 2024

Democracy is a fragile creature. As a political system it is characterized by the participation of citizens in the decision-making processes of the government, either directly or through elected representatives. Democracy can take various forms, but the common thread is the emphasis on the empowerment of the people in shaping the policies and direction of the state.

Cultural heritage, its designation, interpretation and management are always affected by political circumstances. Whatever the approach taken towards heritage in democratic societies, it has to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public, and that includes a dialogue and discourse beyond heritage professionals. There is an assumption that cultural heritage in democratic societies and the proponents of its state-driven management are acting in the interest of the public good. It is an assumption underpinned by the notion of culture as embracing a social value. This can be challenged not only by different kinds of public, but also by different representatives of the state. But what happens when democratic governments start to influence investigative and diverse narratives, undermining values of heritage and culture which heritage professionals have been taking for granted? Where should the sovereignty of interpretation lie when populism is on the rise? Who defines, interprets, uses or instrumentalises heritage and for what purposes?

This conference will look at heritage processes which operate in conjunction with the notion of democracy – this includes heritage *in* democratic processes and heritage *as* democratic process. It seeks to uncover the role of the Nation State both enforcing heritage protection as well as (potentially) defying it. The protection of heritage can happen despite the state or – under certain circumstances – against the state. However, to a large extent, heritage practices deal with the care for listed buildings, conservation areas and other (physical) entities, supporting those entities to survive and thrive. To this extent they are not bound to democratic institutions, as has happened and continues to happen whether or not democratic structures are in place. What does this mean for heritage management processes within democratic structures?

This is an international conference organised in Coventry by the [AKTLD](#) Arbeitskreis für Theorie und Lehre der Denkmalpflege e.V. [*Working Group on Theory and Education in Heritage Conservation*]. It will explore questions of Heritage and Democracy in national comparison, including, but not restricted to Germany and the United Kingdom. Coventry provides the venue and the conceptual framework. As the city of peace and reconciliation it has promoted mutual understanding, human rights, peace and security as pillars of democracy ever since it was bombed in 1940. Its iconic treatment of how to deal with the destruction of its cathedral in terms of architecture and heritage is also testimony to these ideals.

Conference Programme

Wednesday 2nd October

18:00 Informal get-together in Coventry (venue tbc)

Thursday 3rd October

Venue: St Mary's Guildhall Coventry

08:30 Arrival and Registration

09:00 **Christian Raabe** (Aachen)
Welcome

09:10 **Sabine Coady Schäbitz** (Coventry)
Introduction to the Conference

Section 1: Heritage and the public good

09:30 **Michael Grass** (Erfurt)
Architectures of reconciliation. Trans-political collaboration and its role in defining democratic heritage values in current discourses

10:00 **Matt Qvortrup** (Coventry)
Democracy is best taught by practicing it

10:30 **Susanne Mersmann** (Lüneburg)
"Emancipation" for a select few - Viollet-le-Duc's three phase model for the Musée de Sculpture comparée in the Parisian Palais du Trocadéro

11:00 Break

11:30 **Arkadiusz Marciniak** (Poznan) and **Carenza Lewis** (Lincoln)
The impact of democratic difference on public engagement with archaeology – insights from the Community Archaeology in Rural Environments project in Poland and the UK

12:00 **Alice Ullathorne** (Lincoln), **Ana Souto** (Nottingham) and **Laura Dunham** (Lincoln)
Heritage and Identity – Co-production and Well-being in heritage projects

12:30 **Reto Wasser** and **Silke Langenberg** (Zürich)
Kollektives Sammeln für ein inklusives Inventar

13:00 Lunch

Section 2: The professional heritage community and civil society

- 14:30 **Elly Harrowell and Aurelie Broeckerhoff** (Coventry)
Developing a framework for integrating intangible cultural heritage protection and peacebuilding
- 15:00 **Heike Oevermann** (Wien)
Heritage conservation in democracies: Riegl, managing change, and the need to organise participation
- 15:30 **Joe Holyoak** (Birmingham)
Heritage and Democracy in Birmingham: the case of Smallbrook Ringway
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 **Tour Coventry City Centre: Post-war Rebuilding and Phoenix Project**
- 19:00 **Civic Reception tbc**

Friday 4th October

Section 3: Heritage interpretation as an instrument of nation building, of creating, stabilizing or questioning democratic (or other) societies

- 09:00 **Barış Altan** (Istanbul/Cottbus)
Who is democrat, who is autocrat? Two decisions on Hagia Sophia 86 years apart
- 09:30 **Mina Dourandish, Sadra Gorgouiyeh and Somayeh Bahramjerdi** (Tehran)
Heritage Champions and Democracy: Profiles of Conservation Activists in Iran
- 10:00 **Nammyoung Hong & Seung Hwan Ryu** (Berlin)
Commemorating the Democratization or Democratizing the Commemoration: Contemporary Debates surrounding the "Memory Spaces" of the May 18 Gwangju Uprising
- 10:30 **Mike Gardom and Mark Woods** (London)
National History and National Mythology: Caernarfon Castle
- 11:00 Break
Opportunity to attend a guided viewing of the mediaeval tapestry at St Mary's Guildhall
- 11:30 **Johanna Blokker** (Cottbus)
The Heritagization of Democracy in Germany's Built Landscape
- 12:00 **Birgit Franz and Georg Maybaum** (Hildesheim)
Wem gehört das Hambacher Schloss?
- 12:30 **Claudia Marx** (Dresden)
Bismarck and Democracy: The Challenges of Contextualising Schönhausen

- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 **AKTLD AGM** (for AKTLD members only - programme suggestions for non-members will be provided)
- 17:00** *Tour Coventry Cathedral with Coventry Cathedral Architect*
- 19:00** *Reception with the Dean of Coventry Cathedral*

Saturday 5th October

Section 4: State heritage structures, the law and democratic processes

- 09:00 **Temirlan Nurpeissov** (München)
Public value and architectural heritage in post-Soviet Kazakhstan.
- 09:30 **Achim Todenhöfer** (Bremen)
Dekolonisierung und Denkmalpflege. Beispiele in Bremen und Hamburg.
- 10:00 **Thomas Schmitt** (Heidelberg)
International Heritage Conventions and Democracy.
- 10:30 **Lisa Marie Selitz** (Münster)
Mehr Demokratie wagen? Practices in urban heritage conservation and underlying notions of democracy.
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 **Panel Discussion:** The role of experts in architectural heritage protection and conservation.
- 12:30 **Summary and Next Steps**
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 *Tour Coventry Holy Trinity, Spon Street, St John the Baptist, Bablake College & Hospital, Spon End Weavers' Houses*

Sunday 6th October

- 09:00 *Tour Coventry Charterhouse and London Cemetery with Anglican and Protestant Chapels*

Conference Registration

Please register for the conference as soon as possible to: sabine.coadyschaebitz@coventry.ac.uk

The conference fee is:

Members of the AKTLD	£50	(€60)
Non-members	£68	(€80)
Students	£12	(€15)

In addition to the registration, please transfer the fees to the AKTLD account with the following details:

Account Holder: Arbeitskreis TLD
Bank: Sparkasse Münsterland Ost
IBAN: DE68 4005 0150 0000 4060 41
BIC: WELADED1MST

If you decide to pay the conference not in advance, but at the conference itself, the fee increases by 10,00 €.

Further information will be issued after registration.

Travel and Accommodation Information

Airports to fly to:

- **Birmingham International** (easiest for access to Coventry – 20 min by train)
- **London – various** (Luton, Stansted, Heathrow, City, Gatwick – continue by coach or trains to Coventry)

Trains within the UK:

- <https://www.thetrainline.com>

Coach Travel and Airport Transfers within the UK:

- **National Express Coaches** <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en>

Travel by Train from the EU:

- **Eurostar** <https://www.eurostar.com> via Brussels or Paris to London St Pancras, then on to Coventry from London Euston

Local hotels:

- **Hotel Indigo, Friargate, Coventry, CV1 2GN - Tel 02475 102 350**
<https://coventry.hotelindigo.com/>
By Rail – next to Coventry Station, By Car – Sat Nav –CV1 2GN (if accessible parking space is required, please contact the hotel in advance of your reservation)
- **The Coventry Telegraph Hotel, 157 Corporation Street, Coventry, CV1 1GU – Tel 02475 262885**
<https://www.telegraph-hotel.com/> (nearest car park is the NCP Belgrade Plaza Car Park as detailed below)
- **Premier Inn, Belgrade Plaza, Bond Street, Coventry, CV1 4AH – Tel 0333 777 4629**
https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-midlands/coventry/coventry-city-centre-belgrade-plaza.html?cid=GLBC_COVBAR
(There is no on-site parking at this hotel. Chargeable parking is available at the Coventry Belgrade Plaza NCP Car Park (CV1 4AJ) at £9.95 per 24 hours when paying at the car park, or £7.95 when paying via the ParkPass app. 1 minute walk away from the hotel. Height restriction 2.1m)

This is just a selection of hotels. **Booking.com** is a good option to explore accommodation overall.