

Between heritage of the world and heritage of the humanity: studying international heritage regimes through the lenses of the Elinor Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework

Since at least 40 years heritage research expanded and led to the birth of interdisciplinary heritage studies, which eventually evolved during last 15 years into critical heritage studies. Taking into account the observed 'expansion of heritage' and proliferation of normative instruments at international level (especially UNESCO Conventions) it is not surprising that international heritage regimes engage a plethora of legal and political issues, ranging from emergency-protection considerations to those relating to cultural identity, economy and the environment, to questions of, among other things, sustainable development and cultural policies. As heritage scholar and practitioner, conducting my fieldwork and providing expertise in the global 'UNESCO arena' I was intrigued by this subject enormous diversity on the one hand and on the need to conceptualize it as a resource belonging to 'the world' (Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage 1972) and 'the humanity' (Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage 2003) on the other.

International heritage regimes are examples of the close and at the same time diverse linkages between, and the dynamic interplay of, science, politics and law (international and national). However, there is still a fair degree of opacity as to how formal norms intertwined with informal rules within these regimes work, and who, why and under what conditions gets to speak on behalf of heritage and in doing so shape its meaning and (ab)uses. An attempt to map and understand rules-in-use governing variety of situations engaging multiple actors in heritage regimes (representatives of states, communities, NGOs, experts, researchers, international civil servants) faces significant obstacles when one use the existing theoretical framework.

The aim of this project is to examine the relationship between actors of international regimes, the institutions created within those regimes and the rules-in-use, especially in situations of various tensions, by means of the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework established by Nobel Prize holder political scientist Elinor Ostrom (2009) combined with the application of the later developed Grammar of Institutions (GI), enabling coding of rules-in-use. The concepts developed by Elinor Ostrom offer a novel and precise though at the same time capacious methodological framework and formal language, helping to understand rules-in-use in the complex environment in which international relations occur. This research project will use the 'politicised' IAD framework (Clement 2010), embracing additionally politico-economic aspects and discourse analysis.