

Heritage Dynamics and the Cultural Production of the Real

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Hörsaal B

Zentrales Hörsaalgebäude

Zentralcampus

Heritage is a dynamic process whereby a selection of things, places and practices received from the past is qualified as essential to identity and community, and therefore worthy of preservation. The recognition that heritage is “constructed” has opened new avenues for research, typically aiming to demonstrate that history is “assembled”, community is “imagined”, or tradition is “invented” for identifiable social and political purposes. Cultural anthropologist Birgit Meyer critiques this approach, arguing that people may acknowledge the constructed nature of a cultural form and still regard it as authentic. In her lecture, Meyer proposes a more ethical approach, investigating the materials and techniques behind cultural production, identifying two key dynamics: a “politics of authenticity” and an “aesthetics of persuasion”.