

STUDY & TEACHING

UNESCO CHAIR FOR THE BTU

The Chair of Interculturalism has held the UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies since 2003

With its commitment in cultural heritage research, unique in Germany, the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg was already able to convince the UNESCO to establish a UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies in Cottbus in 2003. With this, the BTU is part of a very select network of twelve chairs nationwide and benefits from international renown and varied networking opportunities. Worldwide, there are more than 700. The UNESCO chair is established in the Chair of Interculturalism, which is directed by Prof. Dr. Anna Amelina who was confirmed as the chair holder by the UNESCO at the beginning of May 2018. Amelina was appointed to the BTU in May 2017.

With the establishment of the UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies, the UNESCO defined a comprehensive need for heritage research in 2003, which incorporates world heritage, immaterial heritage and document heritage as an overall concept. With this it also formulated, at the same time, the aspects of our material and immaterial heritage as well as its elements relating to nature. The establishment of the UNESCO chair at the BTU was also the result of the commitment of Prof. Marie-Theres Albert at the time - together with her colleagues - in the successful establishment of the World Heritage Studies master's course. Albert held the Chair of Interculturalism until 2015.

With the opportunity to do doctoral studies in this field with the Heritage Studies PhD programme, the BTU has been making an additional important contribution in the training of young academics and research in this field since 2010. With the renewed awarding, the UNESCO acknowledges the outstanding research work of the Chair of Interculturalism and Prof. Dr. Anna Amelina as the new chair holder. The UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies will initially be granted for four years and can be extended upon application.

Anna Amelina has been the director of the Chair of Interculturalism at the BTU since May 2017. Her areas of specialisation in research include social sciences-based heritage studies, cultural sociology and the sociology of knowledge, globalisation and trans-nationalisation research as well as gender and migration research. Heritage studies is a continuously growing international research field, which examines the origin and transformation of (world) cultural heritage in a global, national and local context. In the heritage research field, several departments work together across the faculties at the BTU. These include: building, cultural and architectural history and environmental and social sciences. The UNESCO awarding enables the Chair of Interculturalism to pursue three associated research interests. These are the analysis of immaterial and material forms of (world) cultural heritage in the context of the current globalisation processes, which are often affected by conflict, the research of museums and the museal representation of identities and conflicts as well as the analysis of the cultural heritage of marginalised social groups. »We are very pleased that, in this context, we are able to further strengthen the research of global world heritage discourse and the development of inclusive (cultural) heritage approaches,« said Anna Amelina, »the participation in the programme of the UNESCO chairs enables the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg to have a long term international cooperation on a global level and ensures visibility of its master's and doctoral study courses in the field of (world) heritage studies.«



△ Prof. Dr. Anna Amelina has been acknowledged by the UNESCO

Chair of Interculturalism
PROF. DR. ANNA AMELINA