



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Nationality of author: British

Language of thesis: English

Title of thesis: World Heritage, International Planning Policy and Climate Change: can UNESCO lead a sustainable international policy response?

Type of thesis: Master or PhD or other (please delete and complete)

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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:

What is the problem?

Climate change is a natural phenomenon gaining scientific grounding day by day. It is now widely held that it will produce far-reaching impacts on all ecosystems in the world. There is now a wide public debate on the responses to it. Political will is being strengthened by this burgeoning public concern. Whilst climate and environment are definitely doomed to alter, our tangible cultural heritage may stand a chance of resisting this sea-change in our external realities.

If we manage to mitigate the effects of climate change on cultural heritage sites, we will retain one of the key aspects of humankind's collective consciousness. This will be invaluable to generations to come. This task requires the interaction of a number of disciplines, notably bio-chemistry, architecture, planning and engineering. The policy of a large organization charged with the care of these precious sites, UNESCO must have an exemplary and sustainable policy response to this in order to lead and inspire the regional and local caretakers of World Heritage.

How will this study address it?

Therefore, in this study I intend to investigate the value attached to World Heritage in the light of Climate Change's threat and examine the response of UNESCO. In this way, I hope to ascertain whether a sustainable and cohesive path can be mapped out for all concerned about our World Heritage in order to fully co-ordinate expertise, political will and research.

Rationale

There is now sound information available on the background to climate change with much policy being discussed on the more generic issues, but there is little on the area of historic preservation and climate change impact.

If we manage to mitigate the effects of climate change on cultural heritage sites, we will retain one of the key aspects of humankind's collective consciousness. This will be invaluable to generations to come.

International planning policy must be utilized in this process, in order to secure the future of any work to this end.

As this task requires the interaction of expertise in a number of disciplines and political actors, the policies of UNESCO, charged with the care of these precious sites, must have an exemplary and sustainable. They may then lead and inspire the regional and local caretakers of World Heritage.

Aims

Investigate the value attached to World Heritage in the light of Climate Change's threat/proposed impacts and examine the response of UNESCO.

Ascertain whether a sustainable and cohesive path can be mapped out for all concerned about World Heritage, in order to fully co-ordinate expertise, political will and research.

Brief Methodology

Conduct a literature review and interviews with key practitioners, academics and policy-makers.

Analyze relevant planning policies on an international (UNESCO), regional (EU) and national (for example, DEFRA and English Heritage) level that have been drawn up to address the potential impacts of climate change on tangible cultural heritage.