

Open Call for Summer Seminar

Towards a performative turn in heritage studies

**Case of WWII Monuments and
Memorials in Western Balkans**

12-24/9/21

Belgrade - Kragujevac - Kruševac - Užice

About

What can be the new performative turn in heritage studies? By approaching the subject of performativity anew offered two-week program opens the questions of organic fusion of intangible and tangible heritage; going beyond multiple interpretations and meanings attached to what is traditionally seen as cultural heritage. It sets heritage to be contemporary dynamic phenomena - as something that is spatially produced here and now. The investigation starts from positioning heritage as a spatial category, i.e. as a direct product of body(s) in action. When defined in this way it is needed to determine what the bodily aspects of heritage are, and consequently what can performative aspects of heritage be? Are these bodily/spatial/action aspects of heritage, and more specifically of remembrance practices and monuments, exclusively bestowed to the humans participating? And what is the agency of a more-than-human world in performativity?

Organizers and funders

Summer Seminar is organized in cooperation between University of Hildesheim (Germany), UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Management, University of Arts in Belgrade (Serbia), Europa Nostra Serbia and SEE Heritage Network and is funded by DAAD.



Outline of the program

The Summer Seminar consists of four-day lecture sessions, two-day preparatory workshops, three-day field-work project and final-deliverable presentations. All the planned activities investigate monuments and memorials dedicated to WWII events, at several locations in Serbia - in Belgrade, Čačak, Kragujevac, Kruševac, and Užice. Recently, these sites have been gaining significant international attention based primarily on their aesthetics – thus deployed of socio-political circumstances and ideological concerns. This is where we will take a turn, and go beyond the form and context(s) and observe these sites and practices from the perspective of performativity of memory and most importantly of (performing) heritage. Thus, the program offers both the new theoretical insights as well as field work with practical production of final deliverables, made through moderated and direct collaboration and exchanged between students from Hildesheim and Belgrade and heritage practitioners from the Western Balkans region.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants for the Summer Seminar are:

- MA level students from the Department for Cultural Studies and Aesthetic Communication, University of Hildesheim
- MA level students from the MA program in Cultural Policy and Management within University of Arts in Belgrade, who have studied in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school year
- heritage professionals from Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia)

There are 18 places available in total, 6 for each of these groups.

Important dates

Application deadline: 31.5.2021.

Final selection of participants: 30.6.2021

Summer Seminar starts: 12.9.2021.

Summer Seminar ends: 24.9.2021.

If the conditions for travel and gatherings due to COVID 19 pandemic are prohibiting the seminar to take place, the organizers will consider postponing the program to 2022.

Participation expenses and accommodation

Thanks to the support by DAAD, participation in the Summer Seminar is free of charge for selected participants. The organizers will be covering the accommodation in Belgrade to students and to selected professionals from the Western Balkan countries, who are not based in Belgrade and will cover accommodation during the field-work to all participants.

Travel arrangements

Participants are expected to organize their arrival to and from Belgrade, while the organizers will arrange the travel related to field-work and visits to selected monuments. The organizers will be covering travel expenses to and from Belgrade to selected students and to selected professionals from the Western Balkan countries, who are not based in Belgrade.

Working language

The Summer Seminar lectures, discussions and workshops will be conducted in English language. Interested applicants are expected to have a good command of English language in order to ensure active participation in the process.

How to apply

You can apply for the Summer Seminar by sending a statement of interest (up to 500 words) and your CV to email: ss0201phheritage@gmail.com, by May 31st 2021. Please indicate in your email whether you are applying as a heritage professional from one of the Western Balkans countries, or as an MA student of the University of Hildesheim or University of Arts in Belgrade.

In case you have any additional questions, please contact Marija Đorđević:

dordevicmarija86@gmail.com