

PhD Workshop TOURISM AND LIVING HERITAGE. CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES IN EUROPE AND ASIA

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong

Sunday 7th November to Sunday 14th November 2027



1. PRESENTATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will be organised by the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC) with the support of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) as part of the [Sphinx project](#)¹.

It will bring together 15 PhD students from European universities and 15 PhD students from the Universities of Hong Kong and Mainland China. The workshop is designed to be interdisciplinary, and will therefore bring together PhD students from all disciplines related to heritage and tourism.

It will feature field workshops, meetings and exchanges with local stakeholders (heritage and tourism managers, museum curators, local associations, researchers, heritage, tourism, and Masters of Intangible Heritage), classroom sessions and field visits.

¹ This WS is co-funded by state funding managed by the French National Research Agency under the France 2030 program, as part of the SPHINX project (ANR 24 RSHS 0006), led by Sorbonne University. **SPHINX – Sustaining and Preserving cultural Heritage: Innovation, Networking and eXpertise** is a consortium led by 12 partners — French cultural and research institutions — to harness expertise from the humanities and social sciences to renew perspectives on heritage and inform public debate.

PhD students will work in small mixed groups. They will prepare projects to be presented, at the end of the workshop, to an audience of researchers and local stakeholders. Following the workshop, a two-day visit to China will be organised.

2. THEME AND RATIONALE

Living heritage—understood as the dynamic interaction between tangible and intangible heritage, cultural practices, social relations, and everyday environments—has become one of the most significant fields of debate in contemporary heritage and tourism studies. Recent research increasingly emphasizes its evolving, negotiated and performative character, continuously reshaped by local communities, public institutions, visitors and tourism economies.

Tourism plays a particularly ambivalent role in these processes. It contributes to the recognition, transmission and economic sustainability of living heritage, while simultaneously transforming its meanings, practices and modes of transmission. Heritage may become a resource for tourism development, but tourism itself increasingly participates in the production of heritage by selecting, interpreting and legitimising places, traditions and identities. Living heritage is therefore not only inherited: it is constantly re-created through interactions between residents, visitors, markets and public policies.

These questions acquire particular significance when comparing European and Asian contexts. Although UNESCO's international frameworks provide a common vocabulary for heritage management, conceptions of authenticity, continuity, conservation, community participation and the relationships between tangible and intangible heritage often differ significantly across cultural and institutional contexts. European approaches have traditionally placed greater emphasis on the conservation of historic fabric and monuments, whereas many Asian perspectives have highlighted continuity of practices, craftsmanship, ritual life and adaptive transformation. These distinctions are, of course, increasingly blurred, offering fertile ground for dialogue rather than opposition.

The workshop therefore aims to create an international and interdisciplinary space where doctoral researchers from European universities and Hong Kong can confront their theoretical frameworks, methodological approaches and empirical research. Participants will critically examine how different academic traditions, governance systems and socio-cultural contexts shape the relationships between heritage and tourism.

Through lectures, field investigations and collaborative group work, participants will explore a series of shared questions: How do tourism practices contribute to the making—or the transformation—of living heritage? How can tangible and intangible dimensions of heritage be understood together rather than separately? What tensions emerge between conservation, development and everyday life? How do local communities negotiate tourism-driven change? And how can comparative dialogue between European and Asian experiences enrich contemporary research on heritage and tourism?

By placing comparison, interdisciplinarity and international dialogue at the centre of the programme, the workshop seeks not only to analyse living heritage in different cultural settings, but also to foster new conceptual perspectives capable of addressing the challenges faced by heritage and tourism in an increasingly interconnected world.

3. WORKSHOP

The call is for PhD students interested in studying the complex process of adjustments, collaborations and (or) conflicts in relation to the topics of living heritage and tourism. The call is open to all disciplines interested by tourism studies and heritage studies.

3.1. ORGANISATION

The workshop will be organized in Hong Kong, in different venues of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

The duration of the workshop is **7 full days** during which the organizers will propose lectures, seminars, fieldwork, and meetings with museums, archives, heritage societies, NGOs, stakeholders in heritage and tourism.

The workshop will have an interactive format in order to facilitate communication and debates between PhD students. The selected PhD students will have to engage in active participation *before, during and after* the workshop. The main language will be English.

Pre-workshop phase

The pre-workshop phase will take the form of two online lectures/seminars providing all participants with a general introduction to the concepts as well as the possibility to get acquainted with the works of the PhD Students.

Workshop

See programme below.

Post-workshop phase

A half-day online seminar will be offered to PhD students.

3.2. PROGRAM

Sunday, November 7 th	Arrival to Hong Kong and installation in the HKUST Campus	
Monday, November 8 th	Morning	Institutional openings 2 Keynotes (Europe / Hong Kong)
	Afternoon	Organization in groups (5 groups of 6 students – 3 European 3 HK)
Tuesday November 9 th	Morning	Lectures - Tourism and Living Heritage challenges in HK - HK natural and cultural Heritage - HK Intangible Heritage
	Afternoon	Visits and Fieldwork
Wednesday November 10 th	Morning and afternoon	Visits and Fieldwork
Thursday November 11 th	Morning and afternoon	Visits and Fieldwork
	Evening	Common diner with European and Asian Students and Professors
Friday November 12 th	Morning	Work in groups (HKUST) and preparation of the presentation
	Noon	Presentation of the conclusions to the stakeholders
	Afternoon	Free
Saturday November 13 th	Morning and Afternoon	Departure from Hong Kong. Field visit to Nansha Village (Guangdong) organized in collaboration with Pr. Ma Jianxiong, director of the South China Research Center.
Sunday November 14 th	Morning	Field visit continued
Sunday	afternoon	Departure for the airport and end of the WS

3.3. TOPICS AND PLACES OF FIELD WORK

The students will be organized in 5 groups of 6 students each (3 from European and 3 from HK universities).

5 topics will be offered to the students:

1. [Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark \(cooperation with Sai Kung District Community Center\)](#)
2. [Island of Yin Tim Tsai \(cooperation with the village head and Tristan Braud Assistant Professor HKUST\)](#)
3. [Po Toi Island \(cooperation with village head\)](#)
4. Maître Lao, [Sai Kung \(cooperation with the unicorn master + professor Liu TikSang HKUST\)](#)
5. [Blue](#) and [Yellow Houses Cluster](#) (cooperation with NGO) and [Police Station Tai Kwun \(old police station in Wanchai\)](#)

3.4. GRANTS OFFERED

15 grants of €1,500 will be awarded to selected PhD students from **European universities**. PhD students will be responsible for any travel or life costs exceeding this amount. However, every effort will be made to ensure that accommodation costs are kept to a minimum. Accommodation is provided in student halls of residence on the HKUST campus.

3.5. ECTS

The WS may give to the PhD students 4 ECTS according to the regulations of their doctoral schools.

4. APPLICATION

4.1. REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be **enrolled at a European university**, in the 2nd year of doctoral studies or higher. Doctoral studies should be thematically related to cultural heritage and to the Workshop's theme.

4.2. REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

- Abstract of the doctoral thesis (max. 500 words),
- Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages),
- Letter of introduction from the thesis supervisor or other academic referee (max.300 words),
- A motivation letter presenting the reasons for applying and the expected outcomes.

All the documents should be combined **in one PDF** document and sent to Paris-HK-Workshop@univ-paris1.fr

4.3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The applications will be assessed by the Scientific Committee according to the following criteria:

1. Abstract of the doctoral thesis: max. 10 points,
2. Curriculum vitae: max. 15 points,
3. Motivation and expectations : 25 points.

The assessment of the proposal will be based on the quality of the thesis and of the CV as well as of the motivations for applying to this WS.

4.4. DATES

Applications should be sent to: Paris-HK-Workshop@univ-paris1.fr

Deadline for applications: November 30th, 2026

Selection of the proposals: January 15th, 2026

Publication of the final program: July 2027

Organization of the workshop: November 7-14, 2027

5. SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS AND ORGANIZERS

Florence PADOVANI (CEFC & Université Paris1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

Maria Gravari-Barbas (Université Paris1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

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