



Australian
National
University

CHINA IN THE WORLD &
CENTRE FOR HERITAGE & MUSEUM STUDIES
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Heritage and China

Friday, 18 March 3:00–5:00pm

Introductory Remarks

Benjamin Penny

Australian Centre on China in the World

Laurajane Smith

Center for Heritage and Museum Studies

Speakers

Susette Cooke

China Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Catherine Ingram

Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The
University of Sydney

Christina Maags

Australian Centre on China in the World &
Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

Ken Taylor

Center for Heritage and Museum Studies

Luigi Tomba

Australian Centre on China in the World

Jieyi Xie

Center for Heritage and Museum Studies

Chair

Yujie Zhu

Australian Centre on China in the World

Location

Seminar Room

China in the World Building (#188), Fellows
Lane, ANU

Further information

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This roundtable discussion is free and open
to the public. Light refreshments will follow
the event.

Presented by

The Australian Centre on
China in the World

The Centre for Heritage &
Museum Studies



As a result of the ideological shift toward the revitalization of 'traditional culture' (*chuantong wenhua* 傳統文化), China ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1985. To date, the country has had forty-eight of its national sites listed as World Heritage sites. During an era of profound political and socio-economic transformations, the central state has recognised the significance of conserving culture to construct a national identity and promote Chinese civilization. Cultural heritage has been discursively framed as an 'invented tradition' to construct a harmonious and continuous past and to reinforce national coherence and collective memory. The Chinese government emphasizes the significance of the nation as a distinct entity deserving the world's recognition and respect, an action that has been framed by Wang Gungwu as 'restorative nationalism.'

By addressing 'heritage' in relation to the process of modernization in China, this roundtable seeks to investigate the dynamic communication between global heritage policies and local practices. Heritage in China does not only contribute to the building of national ideologies, but also facilitate other practices in the new era of economic and cultural globalisation, such as cultural diplomacy, economic development, urban renewal, diaspora, and ethnic solidarity. We hope to create an interdisciplinary dialogue between Chinese Studies and Heritage Studies to further our empirical and theoretical understanding of heritage in China.

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