

BOOK LAUNCH

Heritage Conservation and Japan's Cultural Diplomacy Heritage, National Identity and National Interest

Natsuko Akagawa

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Heritage Conservation in Japan's Cultural Diplomacy

Heritage, national identity and national
interest

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Japan's heritage conservation policy and practice, as deployed through its foreign aid programs, has become one of the main means through which post-World War II Japan has sought to mark its presence in the international arena, both globally and regionally. Heritage conservation has been intimately linked to Japan's sense of national identity, in addition to its self-portrayal as a responsible global and regional citizen.

This book explores the concepts of heritage, nationalism and Japanese national identity in the context of Japanese and international history since the second half of the nineteenth century. In doing so, it shows how Japan has built on its distinctive approach to conservation to develop a heritage-based strategy, which has been used as part of its cultural diplomacy designed to increase its 'soft power' both globally and within the Asian region. More broadly, Natsuko Akagawa underlines the theoretical nexus between the politics of heritage conservation, cultural diplomacy and national interest, and in turn highlights how issues of heritage conservation practice and policy are crucial to a comprehensive understanding of geo-politics.

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Dr Natsuko Akagawa is currently lecturing at School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, College of Design and Social Context, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, previously held position at The University of Western Australia. She is Vice-President of International Scientific Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Expert Voting Member).

Master of Ceremony for this event is Alfred Deakin Professor William S. Logan, Deakin University and the book will be launched by Professor Kate Darian-Smith, Professor of Australian Studies and History and Chair of the History Program in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, and Professor of Cultural Heritage in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Melbourne University.

(Friday) 17th April 2015 1:15pm~ All welcome!

Venue: The Melbourne City Centre (MCC), Deakin University.

(3rd Floor of the Deloitte Building, 550 Bourke Street Melbourne's CBD)

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