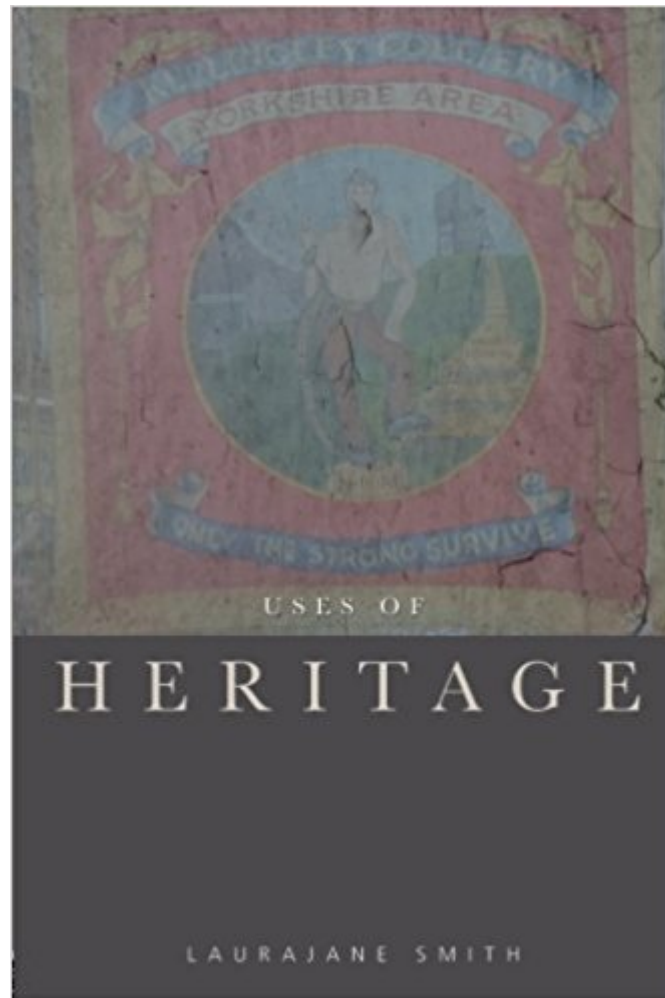




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Uses Of Heritage



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Synopsis

Examining international case studies including USA, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Laurajane Smith identifies and explores the use of heritage throughout the world. Challenging the idea that heritage value is self-evident, and that things must be preserved because they have an inherent importance, Smith forcefully demonstrates that heritage value is not inherent in physical objects or places, but rather that these objects and places are used to give tangibility to the values that underpin different communities and to assert and affirm these values. A practically grounded accessible examination of heritage as a cultural practice, *The Uses of Heritage* is global in its benefit to students and field professionals alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'The book is very well-researched and it is refreshing to read chapters based on survey results rather than opinion... This book offers lots of ideas about the nature of heritage, has good case studies and an academic approach to the issues based on many years experience.' - Australian Archaeology

The University of York, UK

this book is a simple but inspiring introduction to Heritage Studies. It confronts most of the basic questions in the field. The contemporaneity and clarity of the book deserve special praise. Most of the basic concepts are analysed using striking examples.

I first used this book in my undergrad/grad course about a year ago and am using it again. This is an excellent book. My students find it hard to follow at times, but after they work at it, they get it and really appreciate the skill she has in explaining complex ideas and giving a theoretical structure to critical heritage studies. The book engages the field of heritage like no others I have read. The author seems to be able to dissect very complicated material and present their essence in a fascinating way. Where little really deep theory has existed, Smith presents a theoretical tour de force. The first three chapters present the theory part of her work, while the next four chapters give extended ethnographic examples to show how her theories work. The eighth chapter discusses indigenous politics and heritage discourse. There is a final, brief conclusion that summarizes some key points. I think one of her main strengths is in showing the role of authorized heritage discourse in shaping our concepts and politics of heritage both locally and globally. In addition she clearly explains that heritage connects to people in intangible ways and that objects such as buildings and monuments are symbolic representations of intangible heritage. The writing is dense so don't expect to go through it easily in a single sitting. But, it is definitely a worthwhile adventure.

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