

Session presentation

Telling the whole story: New conceptual approaches to the understanding of landscapes and community development

Landscapes – as the German language suggests: Landschaft, schaffen = create – are the result of an ongoing creation process, influenced by both natural and human factors. They are also an expression of political choices taken over time in the social, economic and environmental fields. To understand landscapes properly, we need to ask: Who 'scaped' the land? Why? And what was the context in which that 'scaping' process took place?

Heritage is an interpretation by past and present generations on what part of history should be handed on to the next generation. It is a 'story' we tell, a selection depending on values that change through time, place and culture. Heritage work is about defining the public value of tangible and intangible heritage and about highlighting the active role of communities in the creation, interpretation and valuation processes of their surrounding landscapes.

By bringing together people from different professions presenting their respective work and projects, in this session of the TICCIH-congress 2009 we want to start a controversial debate on:

- What should we take into account when we decide what to preserve? What role did, do and should communities play in this process? Which stories have not yet been told?
- Is heritage work today a democratic process? How can we involve the different view-points and perceptions of all the groups concerned by local heritage issues to assure sustainability?
- Talking about the before and the after of industrialization tells us how humanity tried to catch up with mayor global changes in the past and today. Isn't that part of the story to tell?
- How can we open up today's active industrial sites to a public interpretation process? What role can tourism on active sites play to raise awareness for the concerns of an industrial culture?
- What role can and should heritage work play in the regional development strategies of tomorrow? And what can be it's direct benefit for the local community's development?

organized by Marion Steiner, Essen

internationales büro für industriekultur & regionalpolitik
www.rhondda.de

in cooperation with:

Karsten Feucht, Lausitz, East-Germany
www.bergbautourismus.de

Vania Santi, Cesena, Italy
www.miniereromagna.it