TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Lost City: How do we learn from places and spaces that no longer exist? an exploration of London’s genius loci and sites of emotional heritage?

• Author(s) Name:
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• University or Company Affiliation:
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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
In this paper I’d like to critically explore the ways in which we describe heritage sites as ‘holding’ or ‘containing’ a spirit of place or genius loci. I want to explore and examine the way we talk about spaces and places being receptacles for past emotions, where past actions are described as having seeped into the very stonework of a building or public space.
I would like to look at the way in which we talk about places holding echoes of fear, love, power, greed, pain etc. It this just a narrative hook we use to engage audiences or is there something more in terms of seeing emotional heritage as akin to other types of intangible heritage? Can the vestiges of past emotional experience be read in a way in which we can group them together as part of our shared intangible heritage? I will illustrate these ideas by focusing on three sites of ‘lost’ or ‘hidden’ heritage in
London; the site of the Tyburn Tree, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and the Ratcliffe Highway Murders.
This paper draws on research I’m currently preparing for starting a PHD in the Centre for the History of the Emotions at Queen Mary University. My research looks at sites of ‘lost heritage’ or ‘intangible heritage’ such as battlefields and scenes of protest and significant social events around the UK. In my research I’m interested in stripping back the notion of heritage sites being vessels of emotion and memory by looking at sites, places and spaces that no longer exist. If no, stones, brickwork, architecture remain, how can we learn of it’s past, it’s presence?

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Jenny Wedgbury is a Museum Education Specialist. She is passionate about providing access to and facilitating engagement with culture for all. She is interested in exploring how we can make museums, galleries and heritage sites relevant to people today. Jenny has over 12 years’ experience as a learning professional in the sector. This has included roles at Open House London, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and at UCL Museums. Jenny is now a freelance consultant working with organisations such as the National Army Museum, Heart n Soul charity and Culture& amongst others. She is currently studying part-time for a PhD in the Centre for the History of the Emotions at Queen Mary University and is also a Visiting Lecturer on the MA in Museums and Galleries in Education, UCL Institute of Education. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (RSA), chair for the Group for Education in Museums (GEM) London, a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Committee for Education and Cultural Action (CECA) and a judge for the Sandford Awards. www.jennywedgbury.com