



Heritage Transformations in the Context of Climate Change

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Introduction

When living in a challenging and changing world, discussions about heritage and its place in the world become more and more relevant. We should rethink how we will pass the cultural heritage on to future generations, what we will preserve and what we will, unfortunately, lose. In this context, it becomes important to talk about various transformations related to tourism and heritage. The last decades of the 20th century had already seen a shift in the concept of cultural heritage. The approach to it has changed from being object-oriented to being subject-oriented, focusing less on the heritage object itself and more on its multiple, intangible social and relational potentials (Gravari-Barbas, 2022). Historical buildings, unique objects, places, nature, traditions, stories—all this can be called heritage. When facing the challenge of preserving cultural heritage for future generations, it becomes important to talk about heritage transformations therefore, this research aims to discuss transformability as the essence of heritage. As the physical environment changes due to climate change, as attitudes towards heritage change, and as heritage is experienced in new ways, it changes. However, at the same time, the one who experiences it also changes. From this point of view, we are already talking about the personal transformation of the person who experiences tourism and heritage. When seeking to discuss heritage transformations and their perspectives, it seems important to try to find the answers to the following questions: how do heritage transformations appear nowadays? What layers of possible heritage transformations are highlighted when paying attention to their perspectives? Could heritage transformations and their perspectives be integrated into future tourism development?

Methodology

For this research the integrative review method was used as it is expected to discuss heritage transformations and their perspectives for future tourism development by analyzing various theoretical and empirical literature sources.

This integrative review research seeks to undertake a multidisciplinary discussion about heritage transformations and their perspectives, as literature reviews, according Torraco (2016), are conducted differently for various audiences and for different purposes. For this research, Whittemore and Knafli's (2005, p. 547) integrative review approach was applied: "the integrative review method is an approach that allows for the inclusion of diverse methodologies, and contributes to the presentation of varied perspectives on a phenomenon of concern". The researchers point out that integrative reviews are the broadest type of research review method, allowing the combination of data from theoretical and empirical literature. Thus, this integrative review seeks to analyze various scientific knowledge and to interpret the different aspects that could be associated with heritage transformations. We use five stages for this review: identification of the problem, a search of the literature, evaluation of the data, analysis of the data, and data presentation.

Results

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people again, already transformed, creating new interpretations, meanings and attachments to the existing place/location or object. The transformations of heritage are analyzed in the scientific literature in the context of climate change and changes of eras, industry and cultural environment. The authors discuss how part of the heritage is lost and how it is rediscovered by people again, already transformed, creating new interpretations, meanings and attachments to the existing place/location or object. When discussing heritage transformations in the context of climate change, Seekam and Jo (2020) use the concept of resilience, showing that, by extending the heritage paradigm from a pure conservation perspective to also include a transformation perspective, loss can be addressed and learning facilitated. The researchers apply the concept of transformational continuity to the field of heritage, enabling the continuity of heritage values and the development of local meanings and benefits to society in the context of climate change. When heritage features are significantly affected by climate events, some of them could remain damaged as a reminder of the vulnerabilities embedded in events and places, as transformation allows for a reshaping of values. Here, transformative continuity is understood as the ability to convey aspects of the cultural landscape, especially tangible and intangible heritage, cultural values and connections to places, and benefits to society, whether or not they are restored through continuous adaptation, or reshaped after disturbance, in advance, or by autonomously adapting to new cultural landscapes (Seekam and Jo, 2020).

Heritage Transformations as the Loss of Heritage

Climate change is causing archaeological sites all over the world to be damaged. These sites provide information about the past, and can help us understand our place in the present world. Venture et al. (2021) believe that a conversation is needed to help people and practitioners understand and engage with change. Thus, heritage is considered a non-renewable physical resource that, once lost, disappears forever. This notion of heritage continues, but aims to contribute to an emerging critical literature in which heritage is a resource in constant flux. Recognizing that loss is not absolute or universally experienced, it is nevertheless argued that it is time to start thinking about new ways of engaging people with the themes of loss, change and transformation of cultural and natural heritage. If the eroding physical site can eventually be lost, preserving a place means making records of it in different ways, such as drawings, photographs, or compiling oral stories, so that people can remember it even if the physical site is destroyed. Nevertheless, related sciences have begun to explore the transformative aspects of heritage loss and alteration, and the potential for value to appear through natural processes. Naramski et al. (2022) argue that openness of the transformation processes can help deal with the negative heritage issues that often occur in former significant industrial areas which have lost their original function. Loss is not inherently negative and is not definitely a linear process, so the prospect of loss can even rekindle interest in certain places or topics, giving them new inspiration (Holtorf, 2015). Actively recognizing the positive aspects of loss can help us establish a new relationship with the environment that will become increasingly important when facing an uncertain and unknown future (Venture et al., 2021) as an evolving phenomenon, reflecting our contemporary sensibilities and values (Rockman and Hritz, 2020).

Experiencing Heritage Transformations

Taking the above into consideration, how do we experience heritage transformations today? Living in times of change, we are experiencing the demolition and transformation of heritage.

Results

This integrative review highlighted the importance of paying attention to three layers to global perspectives: personal, local, and regional, when transformations are layered into three layers—heritage transformations "I"—as personal transformations, heritage transformations "Place"—as local perspective, heritage transformations "R"—as regional perspective (Figure 1) — has revealed that all three heritage transformation perspectives are experiencing significant global connections.

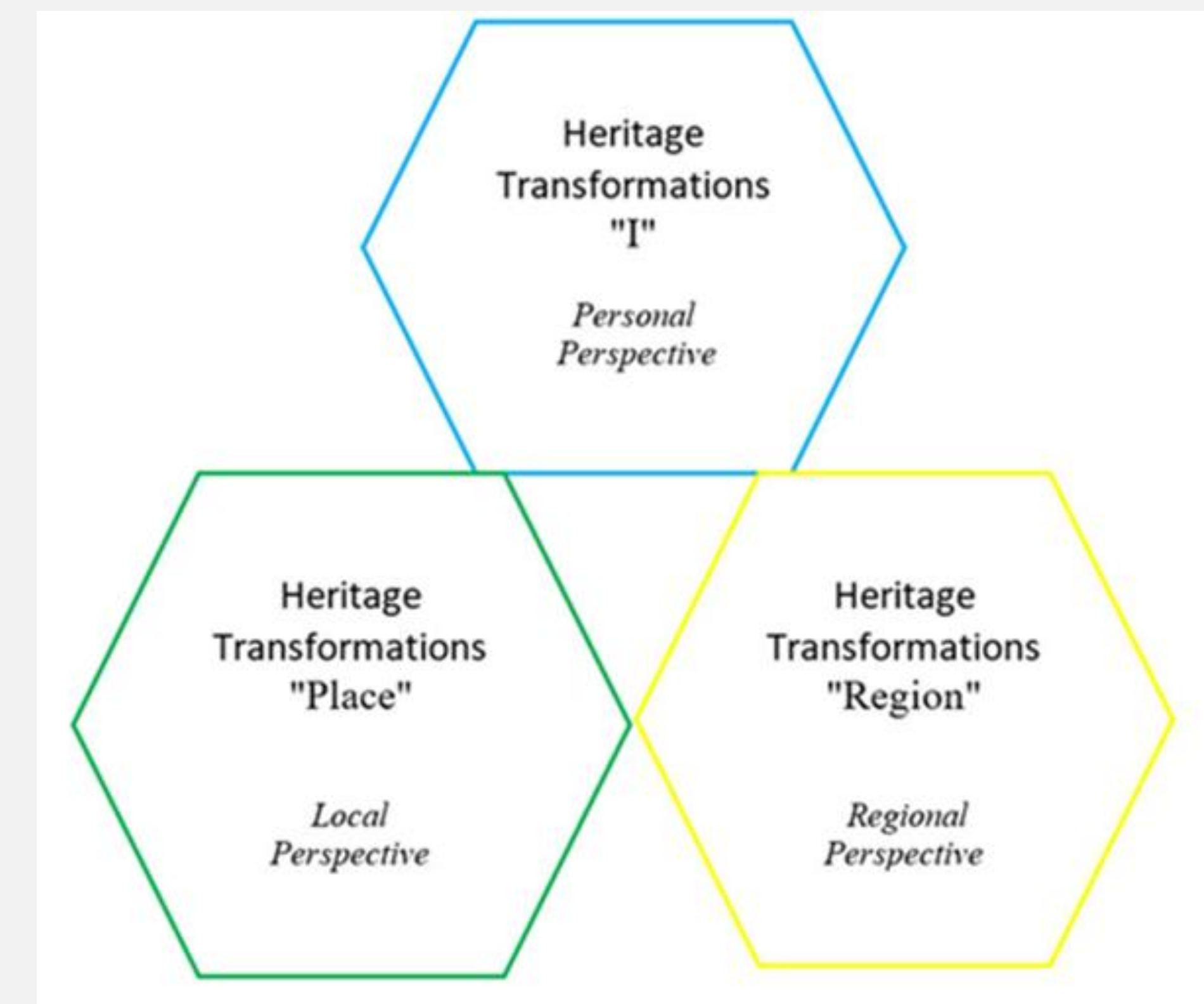


Figure 1. The three layers perspective framework of "IPR" on heritage transformations.

Personal transformation, through the experience of tourism and heritage, is a very complex and even invisible phenomenon. Reflection, interpretation of experience, and integration of values and knowledge, as well as changes in attitude, are among the factors that determine self-transformation in tourism. We should pay attention to the place storytelling—placeteLLing—has in helping local communities to directly engage in the preservation of their common heritage and pass it on to future generations. Furthermore, we should direct our attention to the architectural structures adapting to the changing needs of society, fitting into a certain period of time, and therefore becoming important when considering how historical trajectories and sense of place can become resources for local sustainability. Therefore, the regional perspective, as the transformation of the region, can be a long-term process that requires strategic decisions and modern public management. The processes associated with heritage transformation are based on various aspects of human knowledge and creativity, taking into account economic, social and cultural changes and societal needs.

Concluding insights

Climate change can lead to the emergence of new collective meanings and memories and the erosion or disappearance of the old. The transformational process of change can provide opportunities for both the human world and the natural world, and, by actively acknowledging the positive aspects of loss, we can develop a new relationship with our environment. The biggest challenge of current and future heritage transformations is a dependence on being constantly interconnected (individually, locally, regionally), and on being constantly influenced by the world's challenges and its development trends.