Association of Critical Heritage Studies Abstract Submission

pscher [pscher@uoregon.edu]
Skickat: den 29 november 2011 20:23
Till: Bosse Lagerqvist

Dear Dr. Lagerqvist,

Please find below my abstract submission for the Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference in Sweden.

Best regards

Philip Scher

The Politics of Historic Preservation and the Development of Heritage Tourism in the Caribbean
Philip W. Scher: Anthropology
Abstract:
The focus of this paper is the investigation of the political and economic processes that lie behind the protection and preservation of historic neighborhoods in Barbados, and Trinidad, West Indies. Specifically I will examine the neighborhoods surrounding the World Heritage site proposed for Bridgetown, Barbados(the capital city) and its historic military garrison, as well as the St. Clair neighborhood of historic homes in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Over the last 15 years a dramatic transformation has occurred in the economic profile of this nation and of the region that has profoundly affected official and unofficial conceptions of culture and heritage. The decrease of overall economic options in the Caribbean has put renewed pressures on creating or expanding a market for culture, and heritage tourism. The result of this pressure has been increasing attention paid to developing cultural forms for consumption by outsiders and an ongoing evaluation of historical sites and narratives by local institutions. Recently the nation of Barbados applied for World Heritage status from UNESCO and has, in the meantime, focused efforts on revitalizing the neighborhoods around this historic site. My project examines the impact that this development has had on local inhabitants and small businesses and how they view the historical legacy of British colonialism.

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Philip W. Scher
Associate Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Anthropology
University of Oregon
ph: 541-346-5104