# WHEN REPRESENTATION ENCOUNTERS HERITAGE: MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL DYNAMICS IN HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION

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In this communication we intend to present the perception of spatial representations concerning heritage, namely monuments and sites, as a key aspect for the study of heritage. This is based on the proposal from *UNESCO World Commission on Culture and Development report* (1994) "The tangible can only be interpreted through the intangible" and one of the main ideas taken from the Nara Document (1994), according to which, authenticity may differ from culture to culture, and should not be judged within fixed criteria, but should be considered within the cultural contexts to which they belong.

Thus, it is argued that recognizing the intangible dimension of heritage allows to support the inseparability of the material substrate and the dimension of the spatial representation as an essential starting point to identify a site as heritage, with the purpose of demonstrating that representation of a lived or visited space is an essential component to appreciate that same space as a heritage to recognize, identify, list, adjust, enhance, visit, reinvent, promote and intervene.

In the case of the delimitation of areas defined as having heritage value (historical centres, for example), these are generated in a spatial representation, usually made by experts and scholars (official and exogenous speech) and which also identifies an intangible dimension, even when legitimized by a technical and scientific speech. However, these representations do not always coincide with the ones from the local population. Based on a case study in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, we intend to explore in this communication some issues that seek this confrontation in the context of representations, namely: aren't the inhabitants' spatial representations a part of an intangible dimension of the built heritage? Can its perception be defined as a fundamental assumption for theorizing the limits to trace when it comes to identifying a classified area, for example? Is the convergence of the exogenous speech (technical) with the local speech possible? In case this convergence does not happen, which of the two speeches should be taken into account and legitimized by the heritage processes?

It is intended, therefore, to address the spatial representations as part of the communities' heritage and provide a contribution for a theory of multidisciplinary study of heritage through a reflection on some concepts developed mainly by Anthropology of Space, Sociology and Geography: authenticity, memory, value, identity and spatial living, urban form and function.

The discussion is supported by presenting a case study – Alcochete – a municipality in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, where it is shown not only how the representations related to the historic centre have evolved over the past 15 years, but also the enlargement of the spatial representation of the historic centre as heritage, the consequence of self-awareness of the territorial changes made by the residents and the confirmation given by the visitors.

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