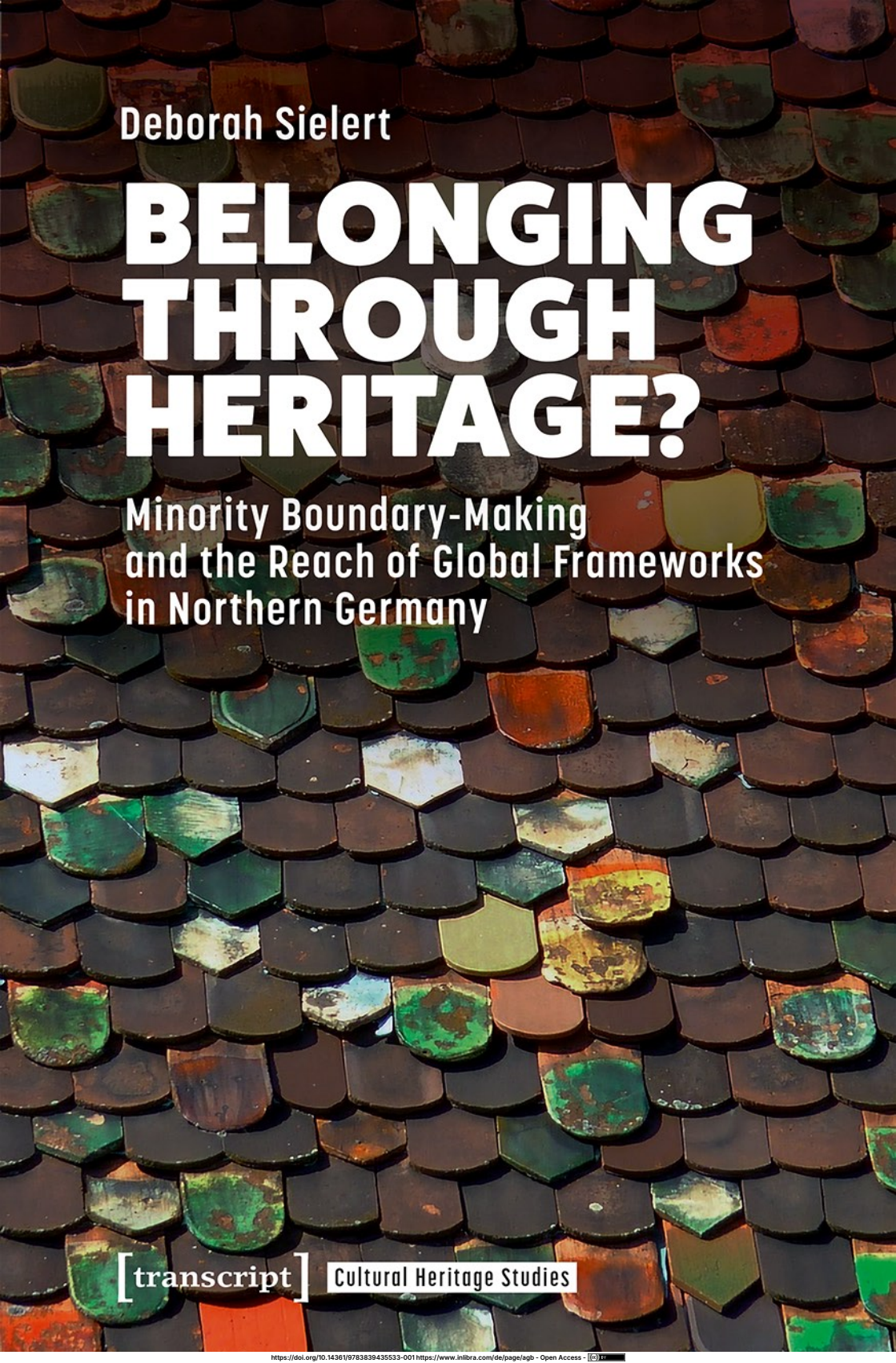




Deborah Sielert

BELONGING THROUGH HERITAGE?

Minority Boundary-Making
and the Reach of Global Frameworks
in Northern Germany

[transcript]

Cultural Heritage Studies

Deborah Sielert
Belonging Through Heritage?

Deborah Sielert earned her PhD in sociology at Leibniz Universität Hannover as part of the project “Cultural Heritage as a Resource?”, focusing on cultural pluralism in small towns. She previously explored the radical imagination of parent activists in Germany and the Netherlands during her research master’s in “Gender and Ethnicity” at Universiteit Utrecht. Her interests are interdisciplinary and include social theory, critical heritage studies, and feminist theory, particularly around the notion of “care.” She now applies her experience in research, teaching, and publishing as an Open Access Advisor at Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB) in Hannover.

Deborah Sielert

Belonging Through Heritage?

Minority Boundary-Making and the Reach of Global Frameworks in Northern Germany

[transcript]

This publication received financial support from the Open Access Fund of the Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available online at <https://dnb.dnb.de>



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons License BY 4.0. For the full license terms, please visit the URL <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Creative Commons license terms for re-use do not apply to any content (such as graphs, figures, photos, excerpts, etc.) not original to the Open Access publication and further permission may be required from the rights holder. The obligation to research and clear permission lies solely with the party re-using the material.

2026 © Deborah Sielert

transcript Verlag | Hermannstraße 26 | D-33602 Bielefeld | live@transcript-verlag.de

Cover concept: Maria Arndt

Cover illustration: Image by LoggaWiggler from Pixabay

Printing: Elanders Waiblingen GmbH, Waiblingen

<https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839435533>

Print-ISBN: 978-3-8376-7930-4 | PDF-ISBN: 978-3-8394-3553-3

ISSN of series: 2752-1516 | eISSN of series: 2752-1524

Printed on permanent acid-free text paper.

Contents

Acknowledgement	9
-----------------------	---

List of Figures and Tables	11
----------------------------------	----

1. Introduction – Cultural Heritage is a Concept We Cannot Do Away With	13
---	----

PART I: From Global Cultural Policy to the Three Small-Town Arena Case Studies

2. The Entanglement of Global Heritage Discourses with Local Cultural Policy	33
--	----

2.1 Paradigm Shifts from National to Ethnic Heritages	35
---	----

2.2 The Diffusion of Global Heritage Discourse	38
--	----

3. Festivals and Ethnic Leisure Associations in Small-Town Arenas – Case Descriptions	43
---	----

3.1 Aurich: A New Maypole for the Town's Centre	45
---	----

3.2 Cuxhaven: An Original Fatima Statue and a History of the Fishing Industry	49
---	----

3.3 Zeven: 'Little Nijmegen'	52
------------------------------------	----

4. Studying Cultural Heritage from the 'Limited Diversity' of Small Town Arenas – Literature Review	57
---	----

4.1 Critical Heritage Studies	59
-------------------------------------	----

4.2 Cultural Diversity and Migration in Small Towns – Between the Rural and the Urban	68
---	----

Part II: Ethnicised Heritage Situations as a Hands-on Model to Study Pluralised Heritagisation

5. World- and Sensemaking in the (E)valuation of Cultural Endeavours for Symbolic Boundary Making	83
---	----

5.1	Heritage as a Social Process of Worldmaking and Sensemaking.....	85
5.2	Heritage as a Cultural Repertoire for the Production of Membership	89
5.3	Heritage Regimes	95
5.4	Synthesis: The Model of Ethnicised Heritage Situations	98
6.	Being Situated: Situational Analysis as More Than a Method of Research and Analysis	105
6.1	The Epistemological Grounds of Situational Analysis as a Research Programme	108
6.2	Inside the Research Process	116

PART III: Worldmaking of Heritage Regimes in Ethnicised Heritage Situations and the (Dis)Contents of Heritage as a Cultural Repertoire

7.	The (Re)production of Ethnicised Festivals: Large Organisations and Boundary Objects in the Absence of a Community of Practice	137
7.1	Large Organisations as Heritage Regime Actors in the Festivals' Founding Moments.....	139
7.2	The Effects of Transformation in Small-Town Arenas: Festivals as Spaces of Commerce and Encounter	143
7.3	Conclusion: On Imagined Communities of Practice	152
8.	The Social Use Value of Heritage for Engaged Volunteers: On the Reproduction of Leisure Associations as Concrete Communities	155
8.1	Outward-Oriented Criteria of (E)valuation As an Aspect of the Heritage Repertoire: Recognition, Expertise & Consumer Orientation	157
8.2	Inward-Oriented Criteria of (E)valuation	164
8.3	Conclusion: The Use Value of Heritage in Concrete Communities and its Gendered Matrix.....	173

Part IV: Unsettling Ethnic, Migrant and Unilocal Heritage: Following Symbolic Boundary Making in Sensemaking Processes

9.	Coming to Terms with Routes: Mobility Experiences, (Non)Ethnic Subjectivation, and Cosmopolitanisms in Heritage-Making	181
9.1	Mobility Experiences as a Unifying Thread: The Small-Town Boundary and Heterogeneity as an Effect of Heritage-Making	184
9.2	Navigating Migration Experiences: Cosmopolitan Attitudes	193

9.3	Conclusion: Ethnicised Heritage Situations and Taking Routes in the Absence of a Master Membership	203
10.	Setting Roots: Permeable Boundaries in Majority National Cultural Repertoires ..	207
10.1	Blurred Boundaries: The Relevance of a German Majority Cultural Repertoire for Setting Roots in Zeven and Aurich	209
10.2	Bright Boundaries: Producing a Transnational Moment for Majority Culture in Cuxhaven	219
10.3	Conclusion: The Importance of Local Relations of Power in Ethnicised Heritage Situations	224
11.	Conclusion – Ethnicised Heritage Situations in Small-Town Arenas. A Holistic Perspective on Cultural Heritage	227
	References	239