
INNOCENTI, Perla. *Cultural Networks in Migrating Heritage: Intersecting Theories and Practices across Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate. 2015. 180 pages. ISBN 978-1-4724-4813-2. £60.00

Cultural Networks in Migrating Heritage by Perla Innocenti explores how ties between cultural institutions, political institutions and communities are supporting and enhancing communication across Europe. The aim of the text as set out by Innocenti seeks to address how “institutions and their host societies manage the tensions and realise the opportunities arising from migration.”

This piece explores the idea of communication within Europe in its broadest form covering a variety of formats, including: physical libraries, virtual libraries and museums (including digitisation), repositories and portals, physical museums, legislation, co-operatives and initiatives, as well as organisations. While there is an impressive array of case studies included within this work, it is the comprehensive analysis of these studies covering a variety of social sciences that makes it informative and well rounded. The cross disciplinary nature of the text can be seen in the following two case studies: Firstly; the Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNET) case study examines how the organisation provides information and support for NGOs, migrants, and local government. Innocenti uses this as a tool to review how encouraging the exploration of cultures and how they translate literally and metaphorically across communities and borders is utilised within their network. The second notable study investigates how Denmark’s Human Library is a modern interpretation on the traditional library, and how this form is helping it to actively engage with the community. These are two examples which highlight how this work draws together and explores how progressive attitudes in the social sciences can act as a cohesive to support cultures.

The text has been formatted into five clear chapters each containing multiple subchapters clearly marked throughout the text. In addition to the subchapters there are photographs, figures and footnotes as well as a full list of references and index at the end of the text. While there are footnoted references within the exposition (primarily website addresses), they however do not appear to be located within the list of references at the end of the text, nor are they all given complete references nor access dates.

Overall the text is well researched with a very informative introduction which provides a solid base for the whole work. The introduction to current debate around issues such as defining “culture”, “human rights” and a review of European Policy and Frameworks in conjunction with the case studies places this text as one which would support both social science and humanities students. Students and academics with interests in social policy, linguistics, information studies and librarianship within Europe alike would find this well researched and written text highly beneficial.

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