

CALL FOR CHAPTER PROPOSALS
Travelling Cultures: Tracing Intangible Migrant Heritage in the UK
Edited by Dr Ataa Alsalloum¹ & Dr Eleanor Lybeck²

Abstract/Proposal Submission Deadline: February 28, 2022

Introduction

We, as a society, confront narratives of migrant experience daily. The rhetoric of crisis, disaster and emergency defines the stories of those who have fled or been forced out of their homelands as powerfully as it pervades related debates around climate change and the coronavirus pandemic. In recent years, as the UK's relationship with the rest of Europe and the rest of the world has been radically reconceived, our islands are imagined, by some, as places of refuge and, by others, as bastions vulnerable to invasion.

Today, and throughout history, displaced groups have travelled from their homelands to the British Isles in search of asylum and sanctuary, bringing with them their own cultural practices which enrich, complicate, and diversify communities. Intangible cultural heritage (ICH), [as defined by UNESCO](#), can be found in the habits, knowledge, traditions, and social practices of migrants. As such, ICH inevitably shapes the UK cultural, social and urban fabric. However, subtle changes and adaptations risk going unnoticed as the emphasis rests on creating a coherent sense of national identity. At the same time, certain sections of British politics, society, and the media perpetuate the damaging misunderstanding that displaced communities bring havoc and disorder. This has contributed to the partial socio-cultural dislocation of migrants in the UK and has been reinforced by responses to displacement which included the initiative of 'helping' and 'saving' 'them'. Thus, an obligation to centralize the rights and interests of displaced people by fully engaging with them and positioning ourselves within their socio-cultural hierarchies is needed.

For this volume, we seek chapter proposals of original work showcasing interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies brought to bear of the issue on ICH in contemporary Britain. Crucially and distinctively, research must be based on full engagement with the activities of migrant groups. By adopting this focus, our aim is to critically and meaningfully investigate the complexities of migration through uprooted ICH practices. Our aspiration is to help ensure the sustainable, inclusive integration of these travelling cultures within British society and position the university as an institution with a singularly powerful role in actively fostering social cohesion.

Objectives

The aim of this book is to explore how migrant groups adapt and deploy ICH as they settle in the UK while assessing the positive and negative implications of integration within this increasingly diverse context. Ultimately, we aim to clarify socio-cultural changes by looking at them through the lens of ICH.

On an ethical level, our hope is that the innovative scholarship in this book will help individuals and societies to better understand the role of ICH in sustaining social cohesion and mutual understanding among different groups of communities in the UK, as well as encouraging communities to actively engage in making decisions about heritage.

On a professional level, our hope is that this book will further demonstrate our commitments to understanding ICH so that we, as academics, might better inform and improve our society. We believe that academia has an obligation to provide research, insights, and understandings of socio-cultural conditions, especially in times of crisis and rapid social and cultural change. This book is a response to that obligation.

Target Audience

Editors seek to design this book as a useful tool for scholars, students, practitioners, community leaders and policy makers committed to ensuring constructive social and cultural integration in the UK.

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The target audience of this book will thus be composed of all people working in the field of Heritage in various disciplines, inter alia, history, anthropology, literature, architecture, policy-making, education, sociology, conservation, and archaeology.

Scope

Adopting [the UNESCO definition of intangible cultural heritage](#), we welcome contributions in relation to all migrant groups in the UK. The focus should be on the period since 2000, although proposals which take a long historical view of migration to inform analysis of contemporary practices and contexts are also welcome.

Recommended topics include:

- oral traditions
- theatre and performing arts
- social practices, rituals, festive events
- food culture
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts
- innovative methodologies of ICH interpretation
- cultural heritage values
- cultural heritage management
- ICH and economic impact
- archival studies
- museum studies
- crises, pandemics and ICH
- ethics and ICH

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit on or before **28 February 2022**:

- a **200-word abstract** of their proposed chapter
- a **60-word biography/affiliation** paragraph

Authors will be notified by **14 March 2022** about the status of their abstract. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by **30 April 2023**. Individual chapters should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this book.

Publisher

A proposal for this book is scheduled to be submitted on 27 July 2022 as a potential themed volume in the *Proceedings of the British Academy* series. Editors of successful pitches will be notified by the British Academy in October 2022; contributors to successful volumes will be notified by the editors shortly after. The British Academy's guidelines on submitting to this series [here](#).

Book Foreword

We are pleased to advise that this volume will include a foreword from Clara Arokiasamy, President of [ICOMOS-UK](#) and Chair of the ICOMOS-UK Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee.

Important Dates

28 February 2022: abstract submission deadline

14 March 2022: editors notify authors of the outcome of their abstract submissions

31 October 2022: decision expected from the British Academy regarding the volume

Inquiries

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