CULTURE AND GOVERNANCE: SAFEGUARDING INTANGIBLE HERITAGE IN MULTILEVEL SCALE

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ABSTRACT

This article is focused in the observation of governance and multilevel initiatives through the cultural sphere, more specifically the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage ratified by Cape Verde in 2016. It is framed by the PhD thesis that is being developed by the proponent (“New storytelling practices and uses of tradition: patrimonialisation and oral narratives in Cape Verde”) and based in different methodologies such as participant observation, interviews and deep bibliographical research. Within Heritage Studies one of the most controversial themes is the implementation of an international document in the national and communal spheres and the development of community-based inventories and political practices that enhance the safeguarding of intangible heritage and participation of its producers.

Thus, the objective is to analyse the political initiatives of the capeverdian government and local groups regarding intangible cultural heritage as a means to observe the social networks designed by the particular kinds of authorities, localities and relation to objects involved in these processes. The need of deeper analysis of methodological and theoretical practices regarding the implementation of the international agreement is raised not only because of the contemporary
heritage definition and dimension but also because it is an important section of governance worldwide, specially participatory one in which different authorities are involved. Although it has no specific conclusions yet it is the kind of study that questions political activity of different groups and diverse areas, including the urban and rural ones, and documents a recent political trend.