

## Öppna föreläsningar om museer som media och geopolitiken bakom UNESCO:s världsarvslista

Måndagen den 11 november står ERG värd för föreläsningar av Dr. Susan Frankenberg och Dr. Helaine Silverman, från University of Illinois. Föreläsningarna är öppna för alla, men då antalet platser är begränsat krävs föranmälan till [Lena.Euren@erg.su.se](mailto:Lena.Euren@erg.su.se). Kontakt: [Barbro.Blehr@etnologi.su.se](mailto:Barbro.Blehr@etnologi.su.se).

**Tid: 11 november 2013, kl 14-16**

**Plats: Sal 620, Stallet, Svante Arrhenius väg 19F, alias Frescati backe**

### Museums as Media

**Dr. Susan Frankenberg, Interim Director, Spurlock Museum, Coordinator, Museum Studies Program, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Within the last decade, several scholars have applied media theories and social philosophies to understanding the cultural significance of museums around the world. Museums are presented both as extensive users of media and as a media form themselves. In this talk I examine the utility, or costs and benefits, of (1) thinking about museums as media, (2) framing museum institutions as mediators, and (3) adopting the diversity of new media currently being brought into museums. Envisioning museums as media and mediators redefines some debates over the roles of museums in local, regional, national and transnational contexts. It also stimulates new ways to study the many layers of public, civic and scholarly interests in museums.



### Border Wars: An Ancient Khmer Temple and the Contemporary Geopolitics of UNESCO's World Heritage List

**Dr. Helaine Silverman, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Director, CHAMP/Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy**

The former Khmer capital of Angkor, in Cambodia, is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites, a worthy member of UNESCO's World Heritage List. Nor is that site alone in representing this ancient civilization as cultural patrimony of all humankind. Vat Phou in Laos is also inscribed, as is Preah Vihear/Phra Viharn on the Thai-Cambodian border. But the border temple has been the source and locus of intense diplomatic wrangling as well as actual fighting for more than 100 years. Rather than furthering UNESCO's well-known mission of "building peace in the minds of men and women" UNESCO's willful listing of the site as a Cambodian property, rather than a transboundary property, exacerbated tension between the two countries and the decision notably contradicts the spirit and letter of the World Heritage Convention.



In this talk I present archaeological data concerning the ancient Khmer occupation of the Khorat Plateau (northeast of Thailand) where many great Angkorian temples are found; consider long-term claims to Angkor's heritage in Thailand's discourses of nationalism and identity; critique UNESCO's global cultural governance; and urge caution in linking "World Heritage" with the promotion of international tourism and economic development.