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Between Imagined Communities of Practice Participation, Territory and the Making of Heritage

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Preface

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Preface

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The present volume is the result of two parallel endeavors. Between 2009 and 2012, the editors planned and carried through three trilateral conferences focused on the overall theme of “Institutions, Territories, and Communities: Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage” and held under the auspices of Villa Vigoni. Supported by funds from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), the *Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme* and Villa Vigoni, anthropologists, European ethnologists and legal scholars from Germany, France and Italy, augmented by a few participants from Switzerland and the USA, we had the opportunity to explore thematically linked questions concerning the heritage complex in a location and atmosphere highly conducive to intensive exchange. The German delegation for these meetings was largely drawn from the second undertaking, namely the research unit “The Constitution of Cultural Property,” funded from 2008-2014 by the DFG as well, and focused in part on research questions dovetailing those proposed for the trilateral meetings. To these sponsors we express our sincere thanks.

Not all of the papers presented at the Villa Vigoni conferences are represented in this volume. A number of them have been integrated into the volume *Heritage Regimes and the State* (volume 6 of the present series). Others have seen publication in other venues. The full list of participants of the three conferences appears at the end of the introduction, providing the titles in the languages they were presented in, and stating where available their places of publication. We would like to thank all contributors for their engagement in this endeavor: the trilateral exchange has contributed to a better awareness of what kinds of research clusters and thematic priorities exist within our respective countries and has intensified the linkage be-

tween German speaking and Romance language scholars in the field of critical heritage studies. The participation of legal scholars, furthermore, has broadened the mutual understanding of the differences entailed in approaching heritage making, its constituent terminology and its consequences depending on one's scholarly tradition and standing vis-à-vis society.

In preparing the volume, we were able to rely on Philip Saunders' skills in smoothing different kinds of English into a more consistent form. Lea Stöver (Göttingen) and Jörn Borowski (Kiel) carried out copy editing and formatting tasks. Many thanks to them as well.

Göttingen, March 2015