The global rise of heritage studies and the heritage industry in recent decades has been a story of crossing frontiers and transcending boundaries. The 2018 Association of Critical Heritage Studies conference, held in Hangzhou, China, thus takes ‘borders’ as a broadly defined, yet key, concept for better understanding how heritage is valued, preserved, politicised, mobilised, financed, planned and destroyed.

Thinking through borders raises questions about theories of heritage, its methodologies of research, and where its boundaries lie with tourism, urban development, post-disaster recovery, collective identities, climate change, memory or violent conflict. Borders tell us much about the complex role heritage plays in societies around the world today. Historically speaking, physical and political borders have led to ideas about enclosed cultures, and a language of cultural property and ownership which marches forward today in tension alongside ideals of universalism and the cosmopolitan. More people are moving across borders than ever before, with vastly different motivations and capacities. What role can heritage studies play in understanding the experiences of migrants or the plight of refugees when governments look to close borders?

Heritage Across Borders will be the largest ever international conference in Asia dedicated to the topic of heritage. It has been conceived to open up debates about the rural-urban, east-west, tangible-intangible and challenge disciplinary boundaries and professional divides.

Sessions and papers that challenge disciplinary boundaries and the professional divides are particularly welcome. What key ideas and ways of thinking about heritage can flow through these areas to build more productive dialogues?

We welcome session proposals around the following suggested sub-themes:

- Heritage across disciplines
- Nations, Regions, Territories
- Theorising heritage as border
- Tangible and intangible
- Connecting the rural and urban
- China and the region (One Belt One Road)
- Cross cultural methodologies
- Nature-cultures
- Bridging practice and academia
- Past/present/future
- Gender and heritage
- Heritage Trafficking
- Negotiating linguistic borders
- Heritage and human/non-human relations
- Museums challenging boundaries
- Crossing the indigenous/non-indigenous divide
- The heritage of diaspora and refugees
- The planned and unplanned spaces of heritage
- Boundaries of digital reproduction
- Memory and forgetting
- Geographies of Craft
- Asia and the world
- Extraterritorial heritage

Deadline 31st March 2017
Submit Session Proposals: 2018achs@zju.edu.cn