

REVIEW ARTICLE

Intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation: A systematic review and integration of perspectives

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Abstract

Heritage conservation's intergenerational value transmission is increasingly recognized as a vital yet complex domain within heritage studies, necessitating systematic assessment of how values are constructed, negotiated, and perpetuated across generations. This systematic review focuses on intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation in accordance with preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses and scientific procedures and rationales for systematic literature reviews. The analysis of the Web of Science and Scopus databases provided not only a snapshot of emerging trends within the discipline but also exposed critical gaps and shortcomings from both a theoretical and methodological perspective. Notably, while literature regarding the intergenerational value transmission has grown considerably, there remains a conspicuous absence of longitudinal data and an overreliance on retrospective self-reported data. In addition, we question the prevailing research paradigms that tend to be overly compartmentalized, particularly regarding the elder community's perspectives on heritage conservation. This systematic review focuses specifically on indexed English-language literature from Web of Science and Scopus databases, which may not fully represent global heritage scholarship, particularly from non-Western and indigenous contexts. Thematic and bibliometric approaches indicate the predominance of complex, interdisciplinary research designs within a single study. Consequently, this body of work captures disparate research methods that are often difficult to integrate meaningfully into cohesive frameworks. This review presents a holistic critique of the application of contemporary technological advancements in heritage studies and highlights the growing disregard for culturally informed frameworks in relation to intergenerational value transmission. The results propose a model for policymakers, emphasizing that new initiatives must appreciate generational differences while promoting dialogue.

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1. Introduction

Intergenerational value perception is the process by which different age groups regard, prioritize, and apply heritage values and conservation markers over time (Lou & Dai, 2017; Maleknia *et al.*, 2024). It is strongly related to the social, ethical, and cultural aspects of preserving tangible and intangible heritage (Labrador, 2022). This notion goes beyond merely bequeathing custodial historical knowledge. It encompasses multi-faceted belief systems, emotional bonds, and various ways of conserving these structures that transcend generations (Hu *et al.*, 2021; Nugroho & Hardilla, 2020). These cognitive structures show remarkable adaptability to social and technological changes (Maleknia *et al.*, 2024). The very methods of transmission, including formal education, ritualized environments, and informal social interactions, represent a focal aspect of how societies balance change and innovation while ensuring continuity in their approaches to heritage (Karunarathne & Lee, 2019; L. Zhang, 2022).

Generational changes profoundly impact the intentions and behaviors related to conservation. Younger generations seem less engaged with conservation activities than older generations, indicating that different approaches are needed for different cohorts (Gao *et al.*, 2021; Maleknia *et al.*, 2024). Adjusting to changing attitudes is essential for effective, sustainable heritage management. Researchers also demonstrate that the social value of heritage is often regarded differently across age groups, and several studies suggest that digital natives are more focused on engaging with heritage sites than on safeguarding them (Gao *et al.*, 2021). Older generations, however, remain attached to the concept of heritage conservation and protective of place-based heritage (Maleknia *et al.*, 2024). Such differences go beyond age-related preferences; they pertain to fundamental ways in which people construct and interpret the significance of heritage. The speed of technological change, combined with globalization, has exacerbated these divides between generations and poses the challenge of enabling people across generations to engage with heritage in a meaningful way (Graham & Howard, 2008; Szmelter, 2013).

Carnevale *et al.* (2017), Knafo *et al.* (2008), and Nijkamp & Riganti (2008) examined equity between generations, cultural transmission, and relational ethics and their intertwined consequences for intergenerational equity. These considerations stem from an individual's impact on their family, community, culture, and on how these systems regulate value transmission. According to Nijkamp & Riganti (2008), intergenerational equity imposes a foresight obligation on present decision-makers regarding access to preserved heritage resources, thereby

posing the ethical burden of resource stewardship for so-called future cohorts. It is important to acknowledge that this review, while comprehensive within its scope, primarily captures indexed English-language literature from Web of Science and Scopus databases. This approach, while methodologically rigorous, inherently privileges Anglo-American and European studies; the findings should therefore be interpreted as representative of indexed academic literature rather than the full spectrum of global heritage research and may be considered as underrepresenting the rich diversity of heritage conservation practices and intergenerational value systems found in indigenous and non-Western contexts (Porsanger & Virtanen, 2019). The findings should therefore be interpreted as representative of indexed academic literature rather than the full spectrum of global heritage research.

Cultural transmission theories explore the psychological and sociological aspects of value, practice, and knowledge systems across generations, accounting for both vertical (parent-child) and horizontal (peer-based) transfers (Knafo *et al.*, 2008). Relational ethics frameworks are also influenced by interpersonal and community relations that systematically enable or disable patterns of heritage valuation, shaping how individuals and communities inherit and facilitate changes in these processes (Carnevale *et al.*, 2017). Integratively, these theories help understand the evolving, multi-temporal processes of heritage value transmission across all the generations involved.

Participatory conservation, as described by Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos (2019) and Owley (2015), refers to public participation that increases societal ownership of heritage, improves conservation, and promotes communication across generations. Community-based initiatives have further fostered public participation through digital platforms (Amaro & Oliveira, 2019). This shift from expert-centered conservation paradigms to one that integrates public participation reflects an emerging understanding that sustainable heritage management necessitates engagement from cross-generational stakeholders (Amar *et al.*, 2017; Hou, 2019). Participatory approaches and processes yield better conservation results, greater community engagement in heritage conservation, and improved resilience of heritage management systems (Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos, 2019). As noted by Amaro & Oliveira (2019), technology has enabled intergenerational engagement and participation, allowing exchanges regardless of distance or mobility restrictions. However, there are inevitable challenges in digital technologies. The so-called exclusionary digital divides threaten participation in heritage discussions, particularly for older, economically disadvantaged groups.

2. Existing research

While several studies have been conducted on heritage conservation, a glaring gap exists in exploring intergenerational relationships and interactions, with most focusing on only younger or older populations (Kalavar *et al.*, 2014; Lou & Dai, 2017). Such oversights also ignore the dynamic, ongoing processes that shape the social values concerning heritage (L. Zhang, 2022; Pérez *et al.*, 2021). Research focusing solely on the elder's transmission of knowledge neglects the active role of younger generations (Kalavar *et al.*, 2014), whereas youth-oriented studies overlook the dominant influence of elder forms of knowledge (Lou & Dai, 2017). These interrelated processes are, unfortunately, underexplored due to a lack of diverse approaches, most commonly using cross-sectional designs, which do not capture value change over time. The fragmented nature of legacy research, divided among archeology, anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, and even management, has hindered the development of robust interdisciplinary theories needed to examine heritage within intergenerational value frameworks (Holtorf, 2020; Y. Zhang *et al.*, 2023).

There is a striking gap in empirical research that traces how heritage values are constructed and transmitted across different non-Western cultures (Porsanger & Virtanen, 2019). Such cultural or geographical imbalances halt the development of globally accepted conservation frameworks and the understanding of the complex nature of knowledge transmission across ages (Kaeppler, 2001; Ochoa-Ochoa *et al.*, 2023). Indigenous and non-Western cultures are particularly in the dark, even though such cultures often feature advanced knowledge transmission systems across generations (Porsanger & Virtanen, 2019). Furthermore, these studies fail to address the shifting technological context and its impact on intergenerational communication about heritage values. Formerly accepted theoretical approaches face difficulties in accommodating the unprecedented conditions introduced by digital transformation (Alivizatou, 2019; Permatasari & Cantoni, 2023). Similarly, contemporary issues, such as climate change, mass migration, and economic globalization, pose new challenges to intergenerational heritage systems that require targeted study.

There are limited studies that integrate cultural transmission, relational ethics, and sustainable development into a cohesive framework focused on intergenerational heritage value perception (Carnevale *et al.*, 2017; Labrador, 2022). This gap contributes to the absence of coherent policies and practical guidelines within heritage management. Each provided theory offers essential contributions, but when filtered through other

frameworks; their lack of integration greatly diminishes their explanatory power. While Labrador (2022) noted the infrequent use of cultural transmission approaches in sustainable development paradigms, studies on cultural heritage commonly overlook the advancements in intergenerational ethics (Carnevale *et al.*, 2017). Such gaps make it difficult to apply research findings effectively, as no frameworks address culture, ethics, sustainability, and intergenerational heritage management simultaneously.

Prior studies tend to ignore longitudinal or comparative designs, which could capture the development of differences in values among generations over time (Maleknia *et al.*, 2024). The focus on cross-sectional methodologies yields static representations that capture a single moment, which do not fully depict life's ongoing changes. This poses a challenge for society, especially with the increasingly high rates of cultural change in several regions. In addition, measurement frameworks developed for younger generations rely on older constructs without proper contextualization, which potentially introduces bias across age groups (Ambuehl & Inauen, 2022). There is a lack of mixed-method approaches to intergenerational value transmission, resulting in an insufficient understanding (Marzo, 2024; Ruddick, 2009). Purely quantitative approaches seldom provide the rich contextual detail essential for understanding value transmission—detail that qualitative case studies are better positioned to capture (Hooker *et al.*, 2021). In contrast, truly insightful qualitative case studies tend to lack widely applicable insights.

3. Study objectives and contributions

3.1. Research questions

This research Centers on four key questions:

- What are the key patterns, theories, and methodological approaches in the literature on intergenerational value perception related to heritage conservation?
- Which concepts, cultures, and geographical areas have been the most studied in relation to intergenerational heritage value transmission?
- How do generational perspectives influence heritage valuation and preservation practices according to existing research?
- How can insights from the literature inform policies and practices to enhance intergenerational dialogue and value transmission in heritage conservation?

3.2. Research objectives

Based on the research questions above, the following research objectives are established:

- To systematically review and synthesize literature on intergenerational value perception in heritage

conservation using preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) and scientific procedures and rationales for systematic literature reviews (SPAR-4-SLR) frameworks.

- To identify dominant concepts, theories, cultures, and geographic focuses within the research on heritage value transmission across generations.
- To analyze how generational perspectives are integrated into research designs and empirical studies on heritage conservation.
- To provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners to foster inclusive, intergenerational heritage conservation strategies and communication.

The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners aiming to tailor conservation strategies to address generational gaps while fostering societal conservation commitment (Keitumetse, 2016; Tran *et al.*, 2020). This review helps to formulate balanced, inclusive heritage policies by identifying practical ways to transmit values across generations and to address potential conflicts among age groups. These findings will aid in developing instructional and outreach materials and interfaces that encourage meaningful intergenerational dialogue about the values associated with heritage. Furthermore, the review addresses the challenges of anticipating demographic, technological, and environmental pressures on heritage conservation policy and on the responsiveness of planning (Keitumetse, 2016).

4. Review methodology

4.1. Review protocol

This study followed the PRISMA guidelines (Figure 1) in a systematic, stepwise manner to conduct the review. PRISMA clarifies the selection criteria for the literature, increasing reproducibility and reducing biases in the identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion steps of article selection (Martins *et al.*, 2019).

As an additional framework for this review, SPAR-4-SLR was implemented (Figure 2). SPAR-4-SLR guides methodologically in four distinct stages: Assembling, arranging, and assessing literature, followed by articulating the results.

4.2. Comprehensive search strategy

This review focuses on the articles published in the two most prominent databases, Web of Science and Scopus. The following keyword-based searching strategies were used within the databases: (“cultural heritage” OR “heritage values”) AND (“intergenerational” OR “generational differences” OR “cross-generational”).

All publications from 1977 to 2025 that discussed intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation were considered. The search strings were changed multiple times during preliminary searches to maximize sensitivity (capturing relevant literature) and specificity (excluding irrelevant literature). As with any search, some changes were made to the database-specific syntax because Web of Science and Scopus have different search functionality. The search results from Scopus and Web of Science databases were combined using R software (v4.5.0., R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Austria). The process involved converting the databases’ exported BibTeX files into data frames, cleaning the data (such as removing duplicates), and then merging them into a single comprehensive dataset. R software and related packages, such as bibliometrix, were used to systematically handle differences in metadata structure and to identify and remove duplicates, resulting in an integrated, clean dataset ready for systematic review.

4.3. Data collection procedures

4.3.1. Data sources

The search yielded a substantial amount of literature ($n = 284$), with Scopus ($n = 228$) providing far more results than Web of Science ($n = 56$), indicating that Scopus covers social science and humanities publications more extensively. The modest overlap ($n = 51$) between the two databases corroborates our intent to search both, as each database offered distinct content important to the final corpus. This extensive dataset formed a strong basis for further analysis and synthesis. We selected 63 highly cited publications (with at least seven citations) from this dataset for in-depth methodological and theoretical analysis. The citation threshold of seven was chosen since it is widely recognized as a reasonable indicator of moderate impact and reflects a representative level of influence within the field.

4.4. Data analysis procedures

4.4.1. Publication trends and bibliometric mapping

A quantitative analysis of publication trends was conducted by visualizing the growth and development of research interest over time through annual publication volume (Figure 3). These trend analyses provided crucial context for understanding the evolutionary trajectory of research in this field and identifying potential inflection points where significant theoretical or methodological innovations emerged. Complementing this, a bibliometric mapping of research evolution was undertaken by constructing co-occurrence networks of keywords, authorship collaborations, and citation-analysis maps. Altogether, this comprehensive bibliometric analysis offers a macro-level understanding of the research landscape, laying a robust

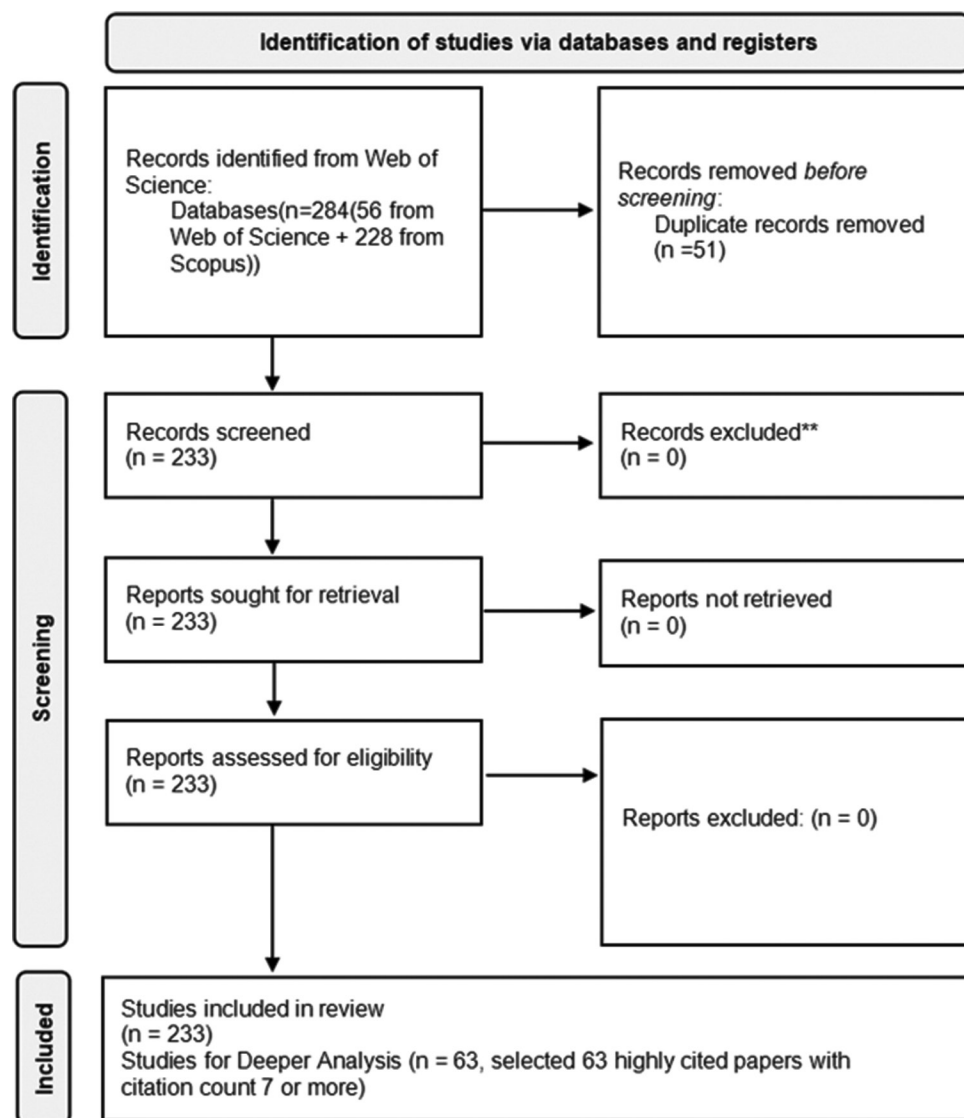


Figure 1. The preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses protocol followed in the study (Page *et al.*, 2020)
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

foundation for the subsequent in-depth content analysis of individual publications.

4.4.2. Research method classification

To understand the methodologies relevant to intergenerational heritage values and cultural transmission toward community participation in heritage conservation, we systematically reviewed 63 previously identified high-impact publications. The review aims to determine the scope of the approaches undertaken and evaluate their findings to identify prevailing methodological trends. Using the publication's research design, data collection techniques, analytical approaches, and epistemology, we assigned the studies to four major groups: Quantitative, qualitative, theoretical, and mixed-method studies.

We also incorporated intersecting observations to identify phenomena, such as methodological hybridity and the adoption of approaches from other disciplines. A methodological diversity assessment evaluated internal diversity within each category while observing emerging patterns, including the use of technology-driven methods. The identified issues were cultural bias, over-dependence on self-reported data, absence of longitudinal designs, and methodological isolationism.

4.4.3. Research topic classification

The study employed computational keyword analysis, followed by content coding to establish dominant research hotspots. These were further analyzed using co-occurrence network analysis and hierarchical clustering analysis

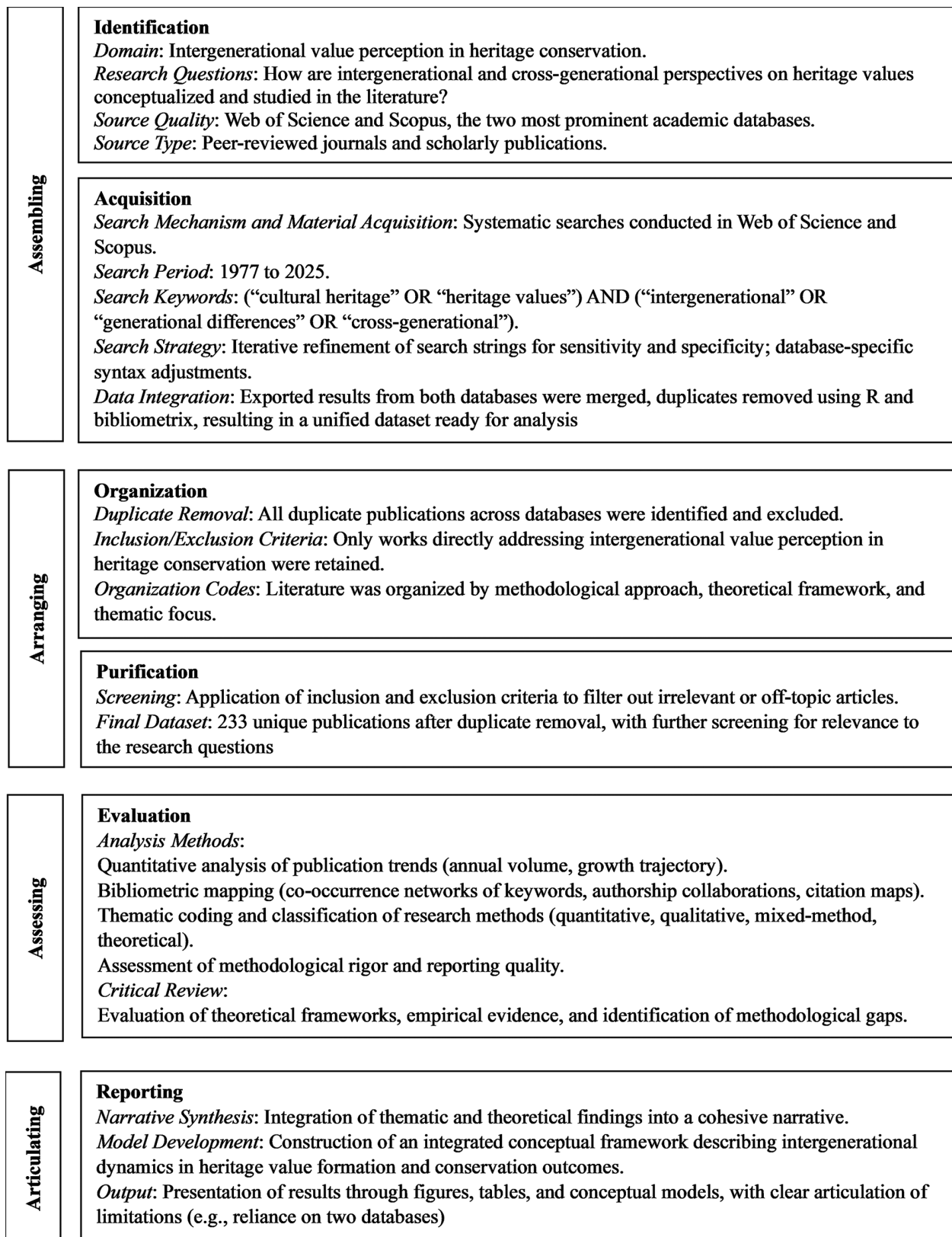


Figure 2. Methodological design using the scientific procedures and rationales for systematic literature review model
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

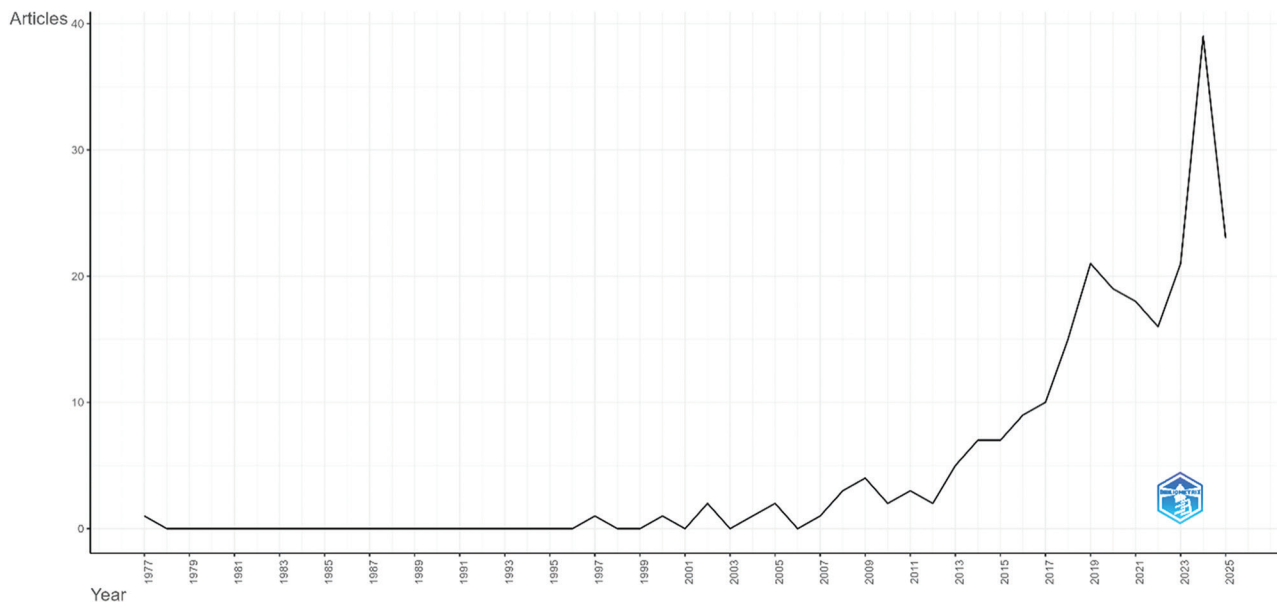


Figure 3. The annual publication of scientific literature about cultural heritage
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

to identify theme groups. The analyses offered an integrated understanding of the approaches, the thematic concentration, and the level of theorization in the field. A thematic clustering approach was attempted through keyword co-occurrence analysis and manual coding. This integration of computational techniques with interpretive manual analysis ensured robust thematic identification while preserving nuanced insights.

4.4.4. Comparative theoretical perspectives

For the theoretical framework analysis, we used a systematic method to compare selected theoretical models relevant to the study of intergenerational value transmission and heritage conservation. This was achieved through an integrated review and analysis of available literature to develop theories that, albeit from different vantage points, ascertained how cultural heritage values were constructed, transmitted, and preserved across generations.

The analysis involved critiques of intergenerational equity alongside cultural transmission, relational ethics, and participatory conservation. This comparison bridged gaps and offered synergetic insights from dominant frameworks, capturing every strand of interdisciplinary analysis offered by the theories.

We further developed an integrated conceptual model to describe the intergenerational dynamics and multifaceted processes of forming heritage value and the related conservation outcomes, based on comparative theoretical synthesis. The model captured value as a mental construct

organized within a framework of generational influences—shaping value perception, which in turn determined engagement behavior with heritage and ultimately the conservation outcomes of heritage. This model also included feedback loops to demonstrate how the outcomes of conservation shift subsequent processes of value perception, thereby revealing the dynamic and iterative character of value in heritage across generations.

5. Findings

5.1. Bibliometric analysis

5.1.1. Annual scientific publications

The bibliometric data (Figure 3) illustrate annual scientific publications from 1977 to 2025. The y-axis shows the number of publications per year, while the x-axis denotes the timeline in years. The overall trend shows little scientific publication in the early years, with almost none between 1977 and the mid-1990s. This suggests a lack of interest in pursuing meaningful research.

There was a gradual increase in scientific output from the mid-1990s to around 2015. The relatively modest, fluctuating growth during this period suggested a slowing pace of research activity and contributions. A noticeable shift took place post-2015. The graph shows a sharp increase in publication volume, suggesting a structural shift in the field. This could be attributed to rapid technological development, increased funding, greater institutional participation, or significant worldwide problems that

require immediate attention and study.

A peak in scientific output, with nearly 40 articles published, was observed in 2024, surpassing the annual publication in other years throughout the entire timeframe. This abrupt surge could result from special conditions, such as major international collaborative research projects, technological developments, or urgent global issues requiring a prompt response, thereby significantly increasing the volume and pace of research. After this peak, the number of publications declines slightly, although it remains considerably higher than in previous decades. This slight drop post-2024 may reflect a natural recovery after a growth phase, loss of major activities, or incomplete data for the most recent years.

The analysis captures the notable expansion and progression of the research domain. Although the early years showed minimal activity, explosive growth was observed, especially after 2015, leading to an exceptional peak in 2024. Even with the minor decrease that followed, scientific output remains significant, suggesting ongoing interest and activity within the field. The dramatic increase in publications after 2015, particularly from China, reflects not only technological advances and increased funding but also significant structural changes in academic publishing systems. In China, the surge is strongly linked to institutional promotion systems that reward publications in journals listed in the Science Citation Index/Social Sciences Citation Index, creating powerful incentives for researchers to publish in internationally indexed databases (Y. Zhang *et al.*, 2023). Similarly, before the 2000s, scholarly exchange in many cultural heritage fields emphasized books and monographs over journal articles, explaining the relatively low publication volumes in earlier decades. These institutional pressures and shifts in publishing culture suggest that bibliometric trends reflect academic system dynamics as much as genuine shifts in research interests.

5.1.2. Sources with the highest number of relevant publications

We analyzed the sources of the 233 articles included in this review (Figure 4). The results show that articles in the field of intergenerational heritage are available from multiple sources. Several journals contributed the majority of articles included in this review, that is, *Sustainability* contributed eight articles, *Milli Folklor* six, and *Lecture Notes In Computer Science*—including subseries *Lecture Notes In Artificial Intelligence* and *Lecture Notes In Bioinformatics*—four; following them are *Green Energy And Technology*, *Heritage*, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, and *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*, all of which contributed three articles. All the remaining

journals, conference proceedings, and book series contributed only one or two articles each, suggesting that publications are spread out widely but not in great depth. Few key sources focus mainly on sustainability, heritage, and technology, whereas architecture spans a range of areas, such as sociology, culture, environmental policy, and technology.

5.1.3. Countries with the highest number of relevant publications and their publication over time

Figure 5 depicts a profound transformation regarding global research contributions over time. All five countries—Australia, China, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States of America (USA)—exhibited virtually no publications in the field of study between 1977 and the early 2000s. This suggests extremely low research engagement or publication rates on an international scale.

However, starting in 2010, a shift takes place—particularly in the volume of articles produced by the UK and the USA that showed marked increases. The USA, specifically, maintained the highest article output since 2021. This reflects the country's research infrastructure and its sustained investment in academic endeavors. The UK followed with a steady increase.

The greatest change occurred after 2018, during which China's scientific output experienced dramatic growth. This growth indicates significant national-level efforts to enhance research and academic publishing, supporting China's broader efforts to establish itself as a world leader in science and technology. China's publication volume is estimated to approach that of the USA and the UK—which have previously dominated the research field—by 2025.

Similar to China, Australia and Spain show increasing publication volumes, but their growth rates are not as rapid. The consistent growth in publication volume in Australia and Spain post-2018 suggests improved scholarly and research collaborations.

In summary, Figure 5 indicates that scientific output is increasingly being integrated internationally and that new research powers are beginning to rival long-established countries, with China being the most noteworthy. The period after 2017 appears to be a landmark for global-scale research competition and productivity.

5.1.4. Authors with the highest number of relevant publications

The bibliometric data uncover an authorship pattern that is both concentrated and dispersed (Figure 6). The most active contributors were Amaro & Oliveira, both of whom contributed three articles with a fractionalized

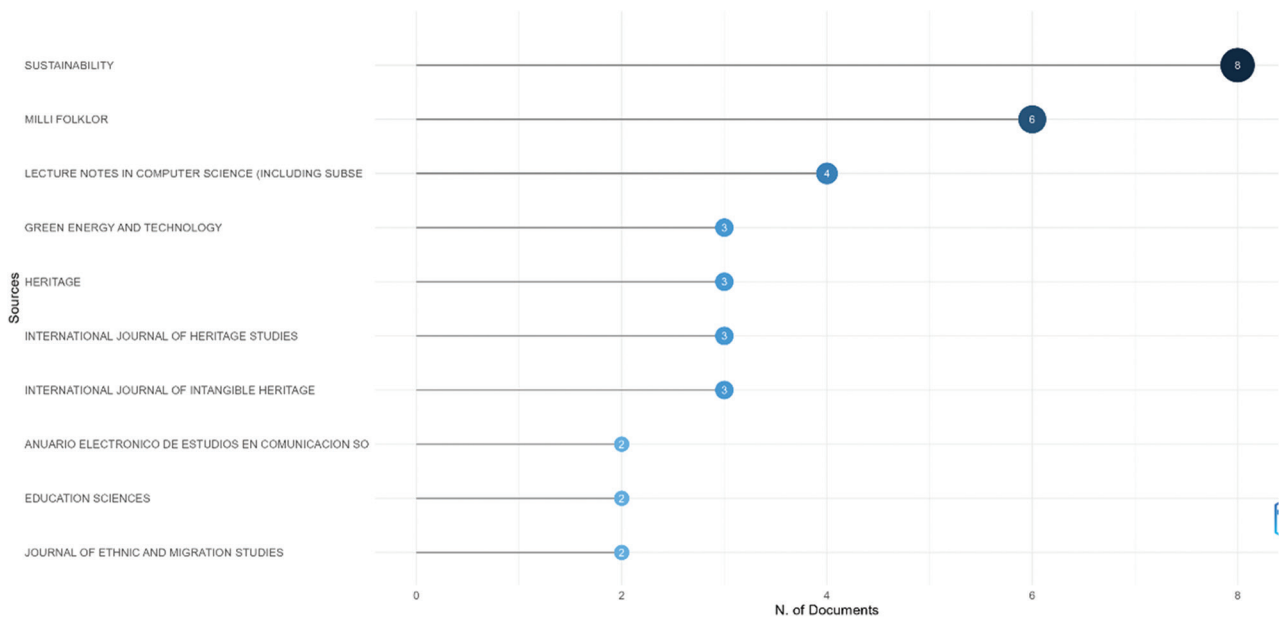


Figure 4. The most relevant sources pertaining to the study
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

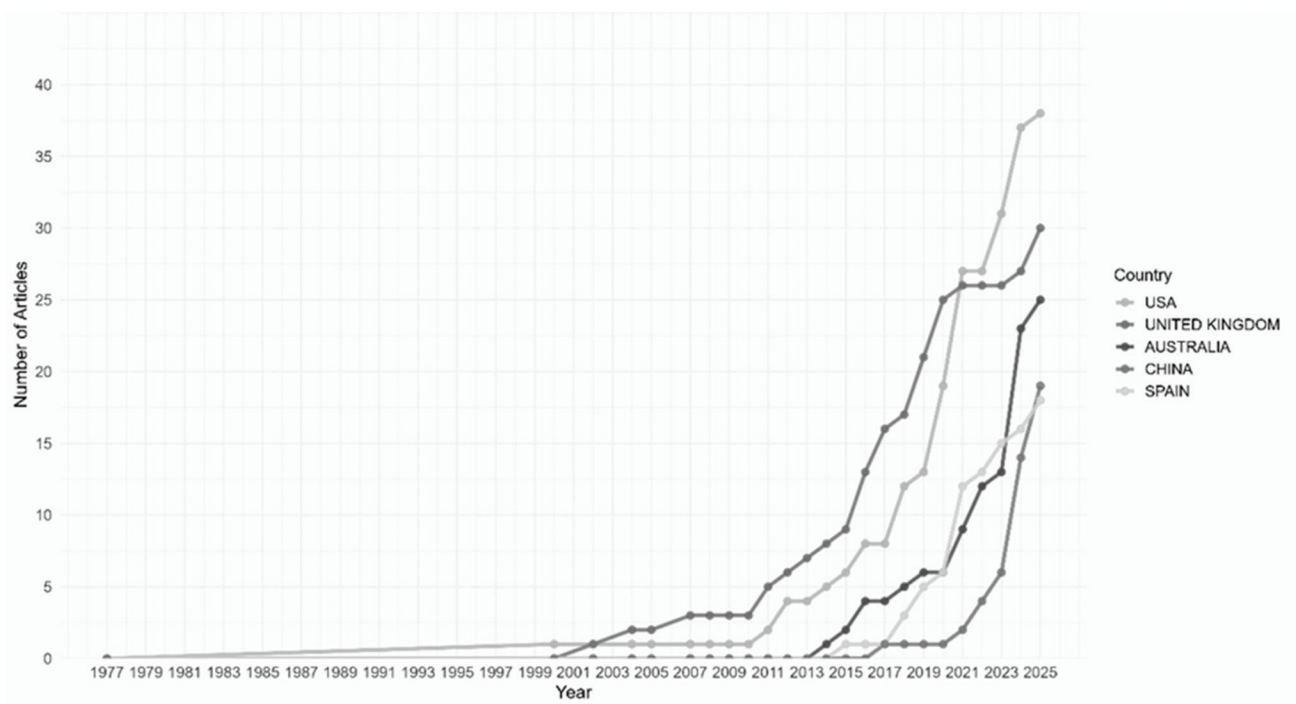


Figure 5. Scientific publication over time
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

contribution of 1.33, indicating that they participated in several collaborative research projects. Other authors, including Koc and Boyd, also contributed two articles each. Their full fractionalized score of 2 suggested that they were either sole authors or the leaders of their publications.

On the other hand, several authors with two articles, such as Del, had much lower fractionalized scores of 0.5, indicating that they worked in larger teams where their individual contributions per article were less.

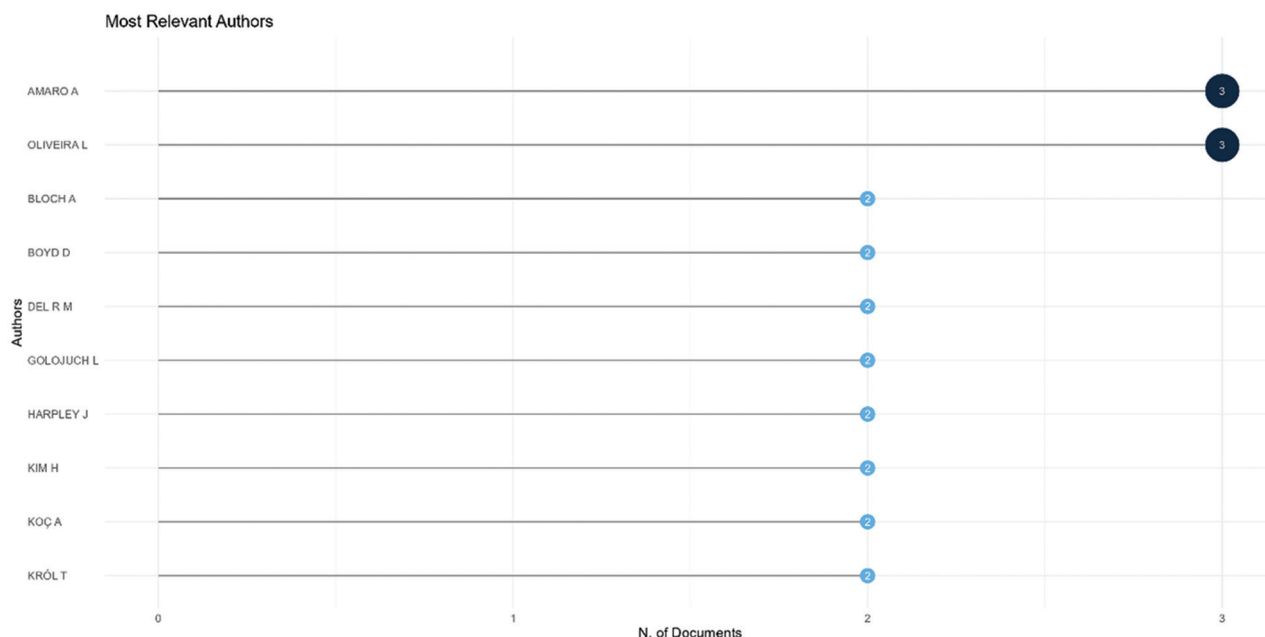


Figure 6. Authors with the most publications included in this review. Image created by the authors.

Most authors (>70%) contributed only one article. Among them, contribution scores were widely spread: Some with a score of 1, suggesting sole authorship, while the majority scored lower (some as low as 0.09), indicating they were only part of large multi-author collaborations. These findings point to a research community with a narrow, strong seam of highly productive and potentially influential authors and a long tail of sporadic contributors, many of whom take part in collaborative efforts.

In general, the information displays a distribution pattern common in interdisciplinary or collaborative areas, where a minority of authors are very productive, while the majority contribute less often or in smaller ways. The differences in fractionalized authorship reveal the range of collaboration patterns, from solo efforts to large multi-authored projects.

5.1.5. Institutions with the highest number of relevant publications

The bibliometric data on affiliations indicate international contributions from a variety of academic institutions, reflecting a highly diverse research landscape (Figure 7). Griffith University was the most prolific affiliation, leading with seven articles, followed by The University of Sydney and the University of Hong Kong, each with five articles. Other notable contributors included the National University of Singapore and University College London, as well as other institutions, each contributing four articles. However, numerous universities contributed only one

article each, across a wide range of regional and disciplinary contexts, suggesting that a small number of institutions were highly active and central to the research output in the intergenerational heritage field, while a wide array of other organizations passively contributed alongside them.

This pattern may indicate a primary set of institutions deeply involved in the specific research area, potentially acting as collaborative Centers or expertise hubs. Figure 7 shows a large number of institutions with only one article, underscoring the field's peripheral nature and openness to a range of constituencies, including both robust research universities and smaller, specialized institutions. The data illustrate both patterns of concentration and diversity, with few universities bearing the bulk of the work while many other institutions contribute infrequently. Such a pattern is characteristic of interdisciplinary or globally pertinent research fields, which feature both well-established Centers and emerging contributors.

5.1.6. Author collaboration

Analysis of collaboration networks shows a degree of co-authorship stratification among the researchers. Several authors, such as Amaro & Oliveira (2019) from Cluster 1, had high closeness centrality (1.0) and zero betweenness centrality, indicating that they were well connected to their group, but did not help much in bridging other clusters. On the other hand, several authors, including Del and Maldonado-Erazo from Cluster 2, had high betweenness centrality (0.5) and moderate closeness (0.333). This

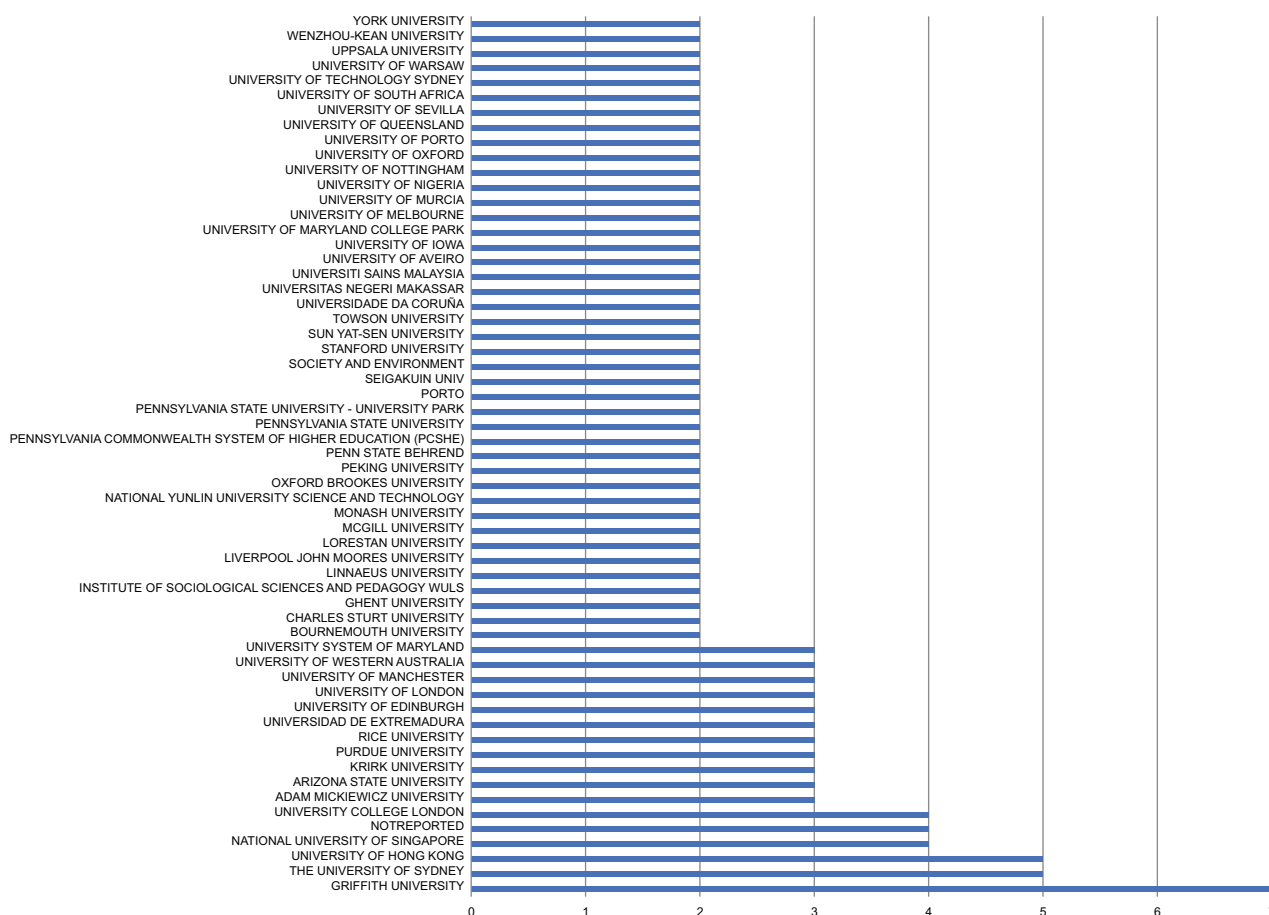


Figure 7. Institutions with the highest number of relevant publications

Source: Diagram created by the authors.

suggests that they act as important brokers, linking gap-filling groups. In terms of network influence, as measured by the PageRank algorithm, Del and Maldonado-Erazo score the highest (0.062), indicating high positional authority and strong network visibility. The analysis of the collaboration network reveals a strikingly small subset of authors with few integrating publications as key structural hubs among clusters, who connect only within their own clusters, whereas segmented researchers remain highly interconnected within their respective clusters.

5.1.7. Country collaboration

The collaborative world map depicts the UK as a central hub for international research collaborations (Figure 8). Notably, the UK extensively collaborated with countries, such as China, Germany, Ireland, and others across Europe and Asia. This indicates that the UK is focusing on strategic international relations to support the global knowledge economy. The USA, on the other hand, has primary collaborations with Canada, India, and Spain, indicating

an inclination toward North American networks and selected European countries.

Figure 8 shows the extent of collaboration networks and underscores the gaps and existing power hierarchies in global research. The comparatively lower collaboration levels among Global South countries—such as the South African–Cameroon pair—when juxtaposed with the extensive one involving the UK and USA, reflected inequities in research funding, infrastructure, and historically-informed geopolitical networks. The gaps highlighted also correlated with the uneven concentration of collaborations emblematic of research-mercenary models. The limited partnerships and collaborations, which often cap at one or two, suggest they are merely short-term projects instead of sustained commitments. These gaps raise important questions that should be addressed to promote equitable global research.

5.1.8. Co-occurrence of author keywords

This section displays the dense associations within the set of filters using the keyword “cultural heritage” (Figure 9).

International Research & Academic Partnerships

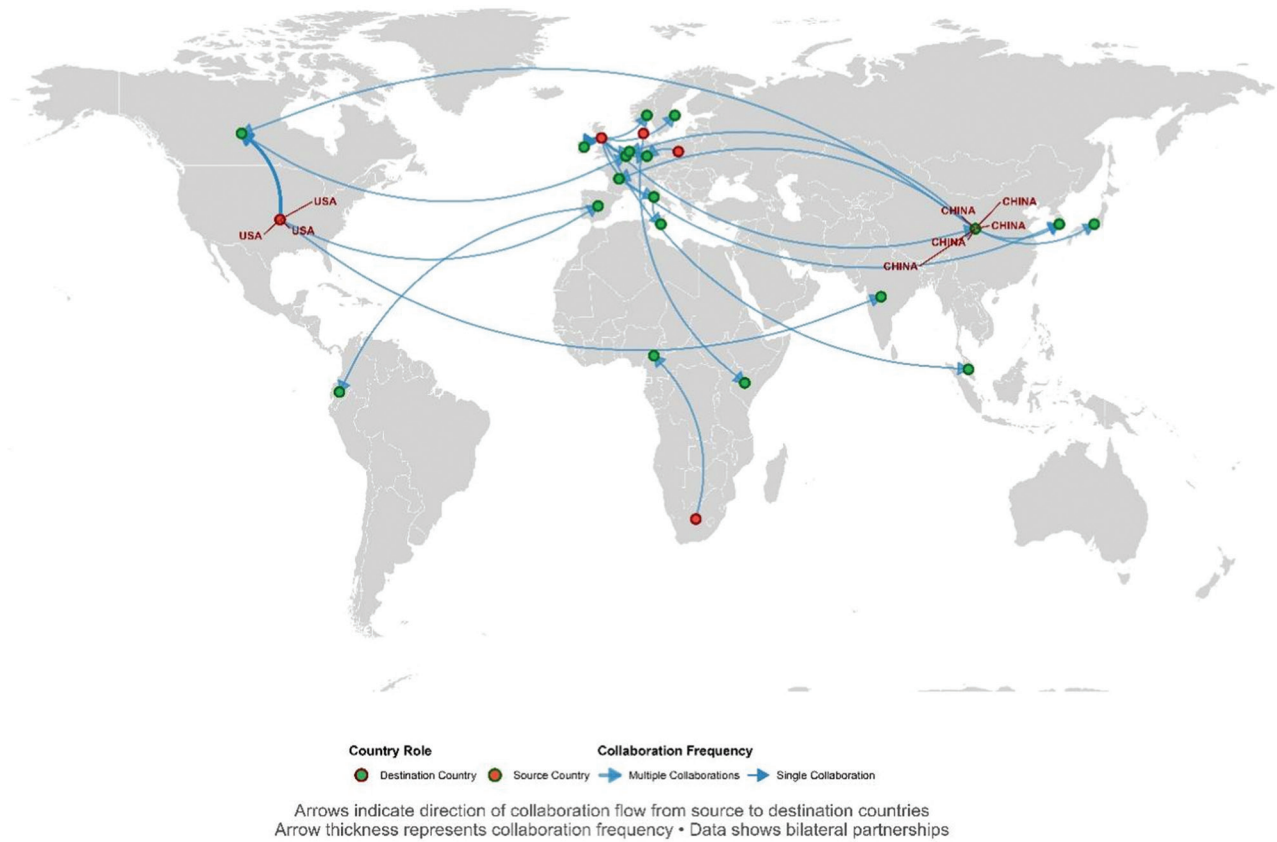


Figure 8. The country collaboration map. Arrows indicate the direction of collaboration flow from source to destination countries, with different colors indicating the frequency of collaboration.
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

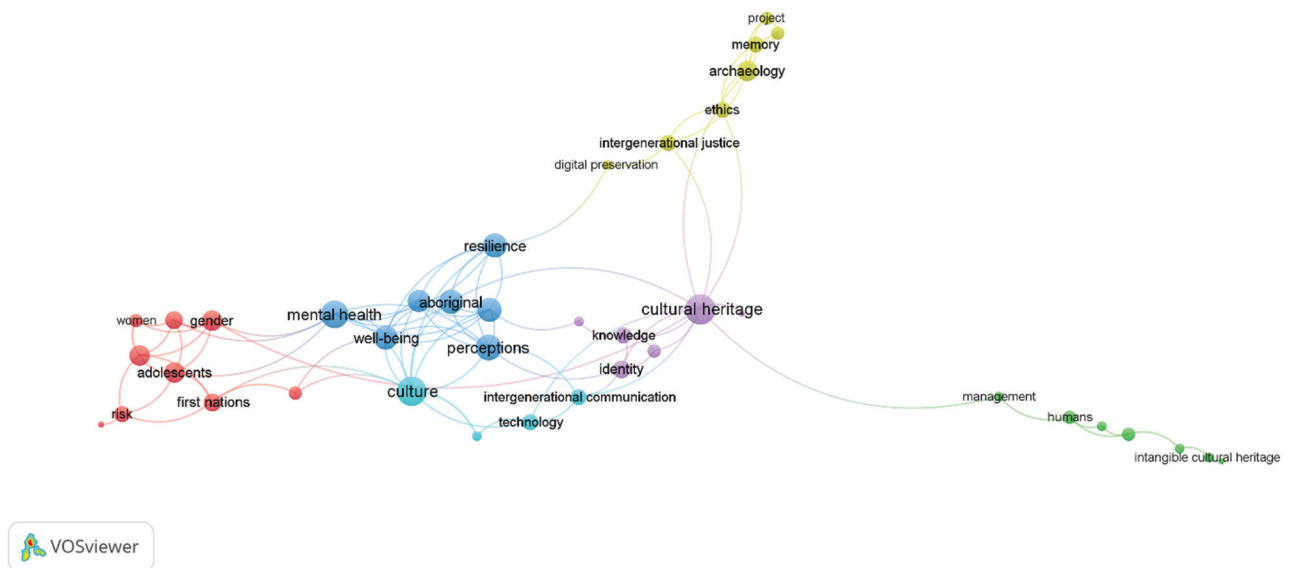


Figure 9. Co-occurrence of author keywords among included articles
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

There is also a dominance of several individual keywords, such as “intergenerational,” “sustainability,” and “cultural heritage preservation,” as well as complex chains, including “cultural identity,” “tradition,” or “communitarian development.” Culture has primary importance for identity, social customs, and community development. Moreover, the network features “cultural transmission,” “intergenerational learning,” and “intergenerational communication,” showcasing methods of heritage transmission within and across generations.

Such a focus on “biocultural heritage” indicates the merging of biological diversity and culture. A wider range of groups, such as “American Indians” and “Chinese,” suggests centers of cultural heritage interest within certain nations. Other terms, including “heritage tourism,” “cultural heritage management,” and “digital preservation,” describe modern methods for preserving and marketing cultural heritage. Terms, such as “well-being,” “intergenerational trauma,” and “gender” represent considerations on the impact of culture on the community of health, historical violence, and feminism.

5.1.9. Thematic analysis

The thematic map provides an overview of the research territory from several angles, both anticipated and

evaluative (Figure 10). The archetypal “cultural heritage” cluster intertwines with “culture,” “intergenerational,” and “education,” involving customary perceptions. However, it also highlights evaluative aspects, such as the “sustainability” cluster’s unexpected ties with “colonialism” and “memory,” illustrating a discourse about the impacts of colonialism on sustainable practices and cultural remembrance.

Under the “identity” theme, “heritage,” “future generations,” and “tradition” highlight the dynamic tension between the past and evolving identities. Intergenerational trauma, associated with “well-being,” “aboriginal,” and “mental health,” emphasizes the need for attention to the spectrum of historical violence and its enduring ramifications. Moreover, several other clusters named “Chinese,” “gender,” and “heritage tourism” suggest emerging subfields within cultural heritage studies that become increasingly specific, inviting further scrutiny concerning their contexts and wider significance. The emergence of “intergenerational trauma” as a research theme reflects growing recognition of how historical violence and cultural disruption affect heritage transmission across generations. Indigenous communities’ experiences provide particularly instructive case studies: In North America, residential school systems disrupted

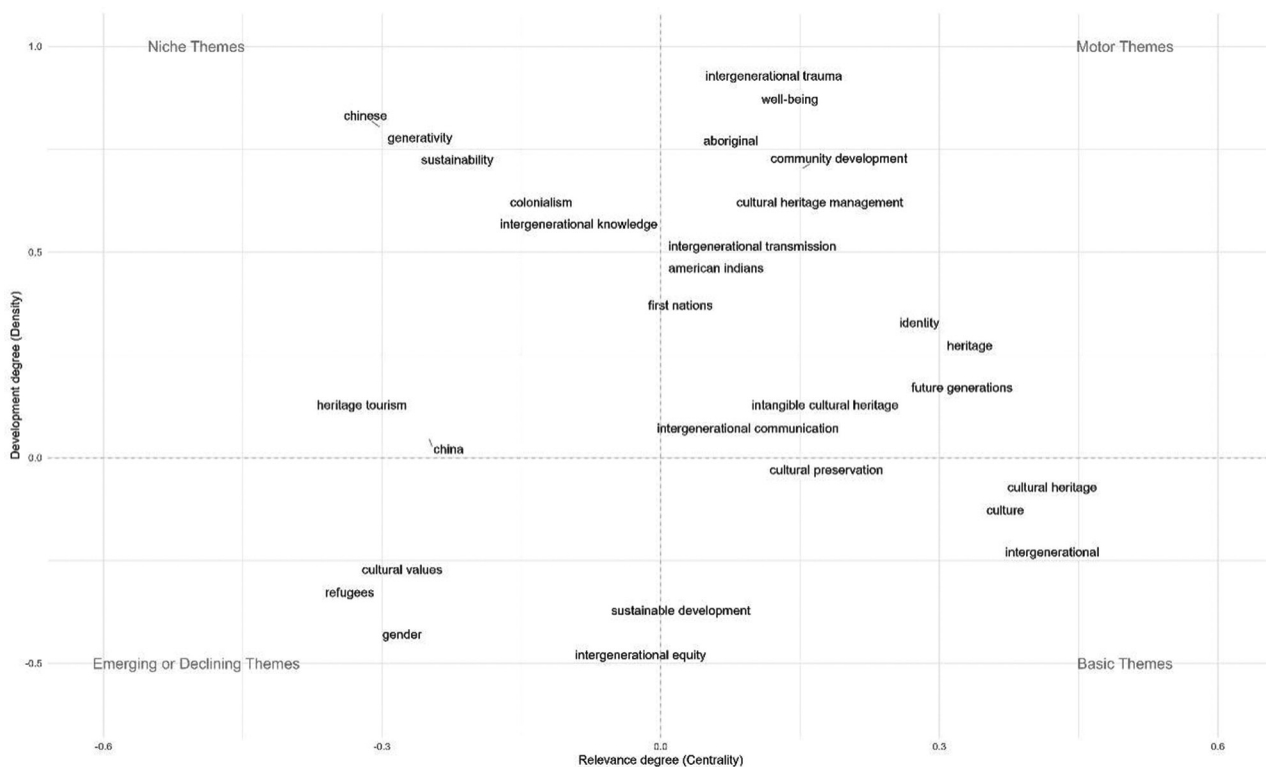


Figure 10. The themes involved in the review
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

traditional knowledge transmission, creating gaps that contemporary heritage revitalization programs must address (Tran *et al.*, 2020). Similarly, Aboriginal communities in Australia demonstrate how intergenerational trauma manifests in disconnection from traditional cultural practices, requiring healing-informed approaches to heritage conservation that simultaneously address mental health and cultural continuity. These cases illustrate how trauma-informed heritage practice must integrate therapeutic approaches with traditional conservation methods.

5.2. Methodological perspective

5.2.1. Methodological taxonomy development

The methodological analysis began with an independent review of each publication's research design, data collection procedures, analytical strategies, and epistemological orientation. Based on this review, studies were classified into four principal methodological categories (Table 1):

(a) Quantitative approaches

The selection also included a notable representation of quantitative approaches, which accounted for nearly 38.6% of the included articles. Those studies mainly relied on structured surveys, questionnaires, and secondary data, which were later analyzed using statistical methods, such as regression analysis, structural equation modeling (SEM), and factor analysis. For example, Maleknia *et al.* (2024) adopted an extended theory of planned behavior to

quantitatively assess the interplay among cultural values, religious identity, and conservation intentions across age groups. Gao *et al.* (2021) performed generational segmentation of heritage tourists and utilized multivariate statistical techniques to assess cohort-level differences in cultural perceptions and behavioral intentions.

Most of these quantitative studies focused on generalizability and causal relationships derived from the data, using large samples and standardized instruments to produce statistically significant results. Several studies captured substantial contextual and cultural richness in the surveyed constructs, suggesting the need for additional qualitative approaches for verification.

(b) Qualitative approaches

Approximately 41.3% of the included articles utilized qualitative methods to understand personal experiences, social narratives, and meanings associated with heritage, value, and transmission, including intergenerational value transmission. Semi-structured interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, focus group discussions, and document analysis were among the approaches used in qualitative studies.

For example, Douglass (2020) conducted a long-term ethnographic study within indigenous communities to analyze the role of archeology in the construction of cultural practices and identity building. Dziubata (2020) analyzed the activities of the "Koalicja Wschowskich Kołędników," a youth group from Wschowa, Poland, reviving Christmas carol traditions amid weakening intergenerational communication. It offers an ethnographic study, regional context, and a case analysis of tradition, folklore, and intangible cultural heritage.

These studies, in turn, explored the sociocultural and emotional aspects of heritage processes in detailed scholarly investigations. They contributed substantially to local understandings and non-Western approaches to heritage, which are often overlooked in broader research.

(c) Mixed-method approaches

Mixed-method studies comprised nearly 5.6% of the included articles. The mixed-method approach simultaneously collects both quantitative and qualitative data to triangulate results, validate findings, and capture phenomena from different angles. Generally, surveys are administered to capture broad trends and are subsequently followed up by interviews or focus groups to investigate underlying motivations and contextual subtleties.

As an example, Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos (2019) analyzed a participatory digital platform for heritage engagement using user experience metrics alongside

Table 1: Methodological classification of the included studies

Research method	Number of articles	Percentage
Qualitative	97	41.3
Case study	71	30.5
Netnography/online content analysis	19	8.2
Ethnography	5	2.1
Design thinking	2	0.9
Quantitative	90	38.6
Survey	76	32.6
Experiments/scenarios	13	5.6
Data envelopment analysis	1	0.4
Mixed-methods	13	5.6
Qualitative and quantitative techniques	10	4.3
Scale development	2	0.9
Q methodology	1	0.4
Theoretical/exploratory	33	14.6
Theoretical-conceptual article	25	10.7
Literature review/mapping	5	2.1
Bibliometrics	3	1.3

participant feedback. Härkönen *et al.* (2018) used surveys and focus groups to study youth participation in intangible cultural heritage projects in several European regions. Mixed-method designs are more appropriate for studies that aim to combine the measurement of observable behavior and the interpretation of lived experiences, as they provide breadth and depth in complementary ways. The notably low proportion of mixed-method studies (5.6%) in intergenerational heritage research represents a significant methodological gap with multiple underlying causes. Resource constraints often limit researchers' ability to conduct both quantitative surveys and in-depth qualitative fieldwork within single studies. In addition, the methodological complexity of integrating quantitative and qualitative data requires specialized expertise that may not be readily available across interdisciplinary heritage teams. This underutilization critically affects research validity by preventing simultaneous capture of both the breadth of intergenerational dynamics (through quantitative measures) and their contextual depth (through qualitative exploration), potentially leading to an incomplete understanding of complex heritage transmission processes.

(d) Theoretical investigations

Finally, around 14.6% of the publications developed ideas rather than collecting new empirical data. These studies helped construct an understanding of intergenerational heritage dynamics by critiquing and proposing new frameworks for existing models and paradigms.

For example, Carnevale *et al.* (2017) presented a novel framework on relational ethics that analyzed stakeholder relations in cultural heritage and grounded them in dependence and moral obligation. An integrated theoretical model relating urban heritage preservation with sustainable development based on intergenerational equity was introduced by Nijkamp & Riganti (2008). Such contributions broadened the theoretical underpinnings of the field, offering analytic and normative frameworks, empirically testable propositions, and policy-relevant insights.

In summary, an essential observation from this analysis is the increasing tendency toward methodological hybridity and interdisciplinary borrowing. Even quantitatively oriented studies included qualitative components, such as open-ended survey questions, while qualitative studies increasingly supplemented their narrative analyses with quantitative descriptive statistics. Furthermore, the use of technology-enhanced methodologies, such as participatory digital platforms (Amaro & Oliveira, 2019), gamified heritage learning (Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos, 2019), and Internet of Things (IoT) integration, has introduced innovative methods that blur the traditional divide between

qualitative and quantitative approaches. Therefore, the methodological approach to intergenerational heritage studies appears diverse and shifting as academic reflexivity becomes increasingly complex, creating ample opportunities for rigorous investigation and innovative theorization.

5.2.2. Methodological diversity assessment

One of the most salient features of contemporary research on intergenerational transmission of heritage and community participation is the methodological diversity across the 63 selected seminal studies. Such diversity captures the impact of multi-faceted phenomena of heritage and also highlights the interdisciplinary rapprochement that increasingly marks the discipline.

(a) Variability across methodological categories

The quantitative studies showed marked variation in their approaches to both design and analysis. Several studies utilized structured surveys and questionnaires as their primary tools (Maleknia *et al.*, 2024; Gao *et al.*, 2021), but there was a wide range in the sophistication of the statistical analyses. For example, Maleknia *et al.* (2024) employed advanced SEM to assess the mediated and moderated effects of cultural values on intention to conserve. In contrast, Gao *et al.* (2021) based their work on cluster and multivariate analyses, segmenting heritage tourists by generation and examining intergroup differences in perceptions. Furthermore, other quantitative designs are flexible in their sampling approaches, ranging from large, nationally representative samples to smaller, selected cultural groups. This range affects the extent to which the findings can be generalized or compared across other studies or contexts.

Qualitative research, which comprised about a third of the included articles, was also characterized by diverse methodologies, though to a lesser degree. Examples included ethnographic immersion (Douglass, 2020), narrative inquiry (Owusu-Frempong, 2005), critical discourse analysis (Klamka *et al.*, 2005), and case study (Dziubata, 2020). It should be noted, however, that qualitative studies tend to prioritize the participant's perspective and collaborative knowledge construction, which responds to contemporary critical heritage narratives that seek to implement decolonial approaches and community empowerment methods.

The integration of qualitative and quantitative research methods is attributed to the expansion brought by mixed-method studies. For instance, Härkönen *et al.* (2018) utilized surveys and focus groups to examine collaboration among youth, thereby collecting both quantitative data and nuanced perspectives regarding youth participation

in intangible cultural heritage practices. Such designs reflect practical advancement; these studies are multi-method in nature, overcoming the limitations of a single-method approach to the concept of heritage as something more than just a range of methods—it is experienced, constructed, and well-aligned.

(b) Methodological innovations and emerging trends

Aside from the discussed designs, several studies implemented creative changes driven by technological developments and cross-disciplinary borrowing. Digital heritage research, as exemplified by Amaro & Oliveira (2019), integrated traditional participatory design processes with user experience evaluation and gamification to motivate youths' eagerness in learning cultural heritage. Similarly, Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos (2019) used frameworks for usability testing drawn from information systems research and analyzed heritage content along with information systems. Such use of computer-based approaches demonstrates the need to change methods.

(c) Methodological challenges and limitations

Despite the rich diversity, several methodological challenges were noted across the articles:

- Cultural bias: Certain quantitative tools were used uncritically in non-Western contexts even though they were created in Western settings, thereby posing issues of cultural validity (Keitumetse, 2016; Lou & Dai, 2017).
- Overreliance on self-report data: A number of studies relied excessively on self-reported attitudes and intentions that were not likely to be carried out in practice and did not consider behavioral observation or tracking over time (Maleknia *et al.*, 2024).
- Insufficient longitudinal designs: With the slow-evolving nature of heritage value transmission, the limited number of longitudinal studies does not provide sufficient understanding of the processes that evolve across generations.
- Fragmentation: A particular subspecialty within a field results in methodological fragmentation, which, within disciplines in some instances, leads to unique but non-comparative outcomes that necessitate standardized methodology or meta-analysis.

(d) Reflections on methodological maturity

Overall, the included articles show a developing discipline, moving from early descriptive studies to more sophisticated reflexive, innovative, and systematic research frameworks. There is growing concern about the levels of multi-method triangulation and participant-observer research ethics regarding adaptive research frameworks and tools.

The emergence of technology-oriented approaches also raises important issues for further research, such as data mining in the context of digital heritage studies, virtual ethnography, and the monitoring of people's behavior through mobile devices.

This pluralism in approaches, although posing difficulties for synthesis, expands the discipline's ability to respond effectively to the intricate, multi-dimensional nature of intergenerational heritage processes, which is useful for extending the empirical research findings.

(e) Research subject and context

The research subjects included in the articles were diverse, encompassing:

- Youth and adolescents involved in heritage education or cultural revitalization projects (Wicherkiewicz *et al.*, 2018).
- Elder community members, often as bearers of traditional knowledge (Nopas, 2025).
- Heritage tourists, differentiated by generational cohorts (Gao *et al.*, 2021).
- Indigenous communities involved in participatory conservation (Tran *et al.*, 2020).

Contextually, studies were conducted in a wide array of geographical locations, including East Asia (Lou & Dai, 2017), Africa (Douglass, 2020; Keitumetse, 2016), North America (Tran *et al.*, 2020), South-East Asia (Nopas, 2025), and Europe (Wicherkiewicz *et al.*, 2018). These varied cultural, social, and political contexts enriched the findings, allowing cross-cultural comparisons and highlighting both universal patterns and local specificities in intergenerational heritage dynamics.

5.3. Thematic perspective

5.3.1. Research hotspot identification

Based on both automated content analysis and manual coding of the content's themes, the most significant research hot spots are established for the included articles:

- The focus on cultural value socialization is particularly prominent with respect to indigenous and minority community studies (Wicherkiewicz *et al.*, 2018).
- Community involvement and empowerment in the process of heritage conservation are common themes in articles focused on participatory models (Douglass, 2020; Tran *et al.*, 2020).
- Interest in the role of technology in heritage engagement, including the use of digital media and IoT-enabled learning environments, is noted as an expanding area of interest (Amaro & Oliveira, 2019; Koukopoulos & Koukopoulos, 2019).

- The emerging focus on ethical issues related to intergenerational concepts of conservation, such as intergenerational equity and relational ethics, is also noteworthy (Carnevale *et al.*, 2017; Nijkamp & Riganti, 2008).

Such hotspots reveal the existence of a relatively advanced field of study regarding the intersection of heritage conservation, global influences, modern technologies, and societal changes.

5.3.2. Keyword network analysis

Keyword co-occurrence network analysis revealed tightly interconnected clusters, with terms, such as “intergenerational learning,” “cultural sustainability,” “youth engagement,” and “digital heritage” serving as central nodes.

The strongest linkages were observed between “heritage transmission” and “community empowerment,” suggesting that contemporary heritage research increasingly views transmission processes not as passive inheritance but as active, negotiated practices involving community agency (Douglass, 2020; Tran *et al.*, 2020). The network topology also highlighted emerging fields, such as gamified cultural heritage learning (Amaro & Oliveira, 2019), reflecting a broader societal shift toward interactive and participatory heritage experiences.

5.3.3. Thematic clustering and interpretation

Hierarchical clustering analysis identified six primary thematic groups (Figure 11):

- Generational shifts in cultural values: Examining tensions between tradition and modernity (Gao *et al.*, 2021; Maleknia *et al.*, 2024).
- Inclusive heritage management: Highlighting participatory governance models (Tran *et al.*, 2020).
- Sustainability and intergenerational equity:

Addressing long-term conservation ethics (Nijkamp & Riganti, 2008).

- Technological mediation of heritage learning: Exploring new digital frontiers (Amaro & Oliveira, 2019).
- Educational approaches to cultural transmission: Documenting pedagogical innovations (Labrador, 2022).
- Identity and belonging through heritage: Investigating heritage as a cornerstone of personal and collective identities (Owusu-Frempong, 2005).

These thematic structures serve as the analytical basis for integrating empirical findings and theoretical perspectives in subsequent sections.

5.4. Comparative theoretical perspectives

5.4.1. Theoretical framework comparison

This review’s primary contribution lies in comparing fundamental approaches relevant to research on intergenerational value transmission and heritage conservation. Through a literature review, several theories were identified that, though distinct, served as a foundation for the core processes of negotiating, transmitting, and sustaining cultural heritage values across generations (Table 2).

First, the theory of intergenerational equity (Nijkamp & Riganti, 2008) regards heritage preservation as a social debt to younger and future generations. Drawing from sustainable development principles, this perspective further argues that there is an ethical necessity to protect both tangible and intangible heritage resources. It aligns conservation with public concerns about environmental and urban sustainability by placing cultural heritage preservation within broader narratives of care and responsibility.

Second, cultural transmission theory (Knafo *et al.*, 2008) focuses on the family and society as channels for the intergenerational communication of values, traditions, and knowledge. The framework explains the micro-processes



Figure 11. Thematic clustering of research topics
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

Table 2. Theoretical comparison of the included articles

Theoretical perspective	Core focus	Key concepts	Analytical level	Ethical/Normative emphasis	Approach to heritage conservation
Intergenerational equity	Heritage preservation as social debt	Sustainable development, ethical necessity, and social responsibility	Global and societal	Moral obligation to future generations	Preservation as care and responsibility for tangible and intangible heritage
Cultural transmission theory	Communication of values within family/society	Value negotiation, identity formation, and cultural meanings	Familial and community	Social and psychological continuity	Transmission of cultural values and knowledge through family and community
Relational ethics	Mutual dependence and ethical reciprocity	Reciprocal caring and suppression of hierarchy	Individual and relational	Ethical obligation through mutual care	Conservation decisions based on dialogical, non-paternalistic ethics
Participatory conservation	Community-led governance in heritage management	Bottom-up governance, stakeholder participation, and indigenous expertise	Community and institutional	Ethical inclusivity and shared governance	Active participation and partnership in heritage decision-making

of value negotiation within the family and the community, demonstrating how cultural meanings shape identities over time.

Third, Carnevale *et al.* (2017) described relational ethics as an ethical stance of mutual dependence. This challenges hierarchical or paternalistic models of conservation decision-making. Rather, relational ethics considers reciprocal caring as a moral obligation to take appropriate action in heritage situations.

Fourth, participatory conservation (Owley, 2015) supports a bottom-up approach to community governance in heritage management. This focuses on the greater picture, including indigenous expertise, active participation by all stakeholders, and decision-making at all levels, regarding the community not as passive recipients but as active guardians and partners shaping the future of heritage.

Comparative analysis revealed notable complementarities between intergenerational equity and cultural transmission theory. Both stress the moral and social imperatives of maintaining continuity between past, present, and future generations, albeit operating at different analytical levels—global and ethical versus familial and psychological. Conversely, relational ethics and participatory conservation converge around the principle of negotiated agency, emphasizing dialogical engagement, shared governance, and ethical inclusivity in conservation processes. Contemporary heritage research emphasizes participatory and negotiated approaches that align with principles of intergenerational dialogue (Waterton & Watson, 2015). Urban heritage management increasingly demonstrates how intergenerational values can inform policy frameworks that balance preservation with sustainable development (Farhan *et al.*, 2025).

By juxtaposing these frameworks, the analysis exhibited linkages across scales of analysis (individual, familial, societal, and institutional) and theoretical traditions (normative ethics, social psychology, and governance theory), thereby setting the stage for a new integrative model.

5.4.2. Integrated conceptual model for intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation

Building upon the comparative theoretical synthesis, this review proposes an integrated conceptual model that captures the dynamic, multi-level nature of intergenerational heritage value transmission and conservation outcomes. The model organizes the theoretical insights into a structured, relational pathway:

- Generational influences that shape value perception
- Value perception to inform engagement behaviors
- Engagement behaviors leading to heritage conservation outcomes.

Critically, feedback loops are incorporated into the model to reflect the iterative nature of heritage processes: Conservation outcomes, once realized, reconfigure community narratives and individual perceptions, influencing subsequent cycles of value perception and behavior. Moreover, the model articulates four interconnected layers of analysis (Figure 12):

- Individual level: Drawing on cultural transmission theory (Knafo *et al.*, 2008), this level captures how personal cognitive processes and motivational factors shape an individual's valuation and engagement with heritage.
- Familial level: Informed by Balaine (2019), this level examines intergenerational dialogue, family practices, and household-level negotiations through which cultural meanings are reinforced, adapted, or

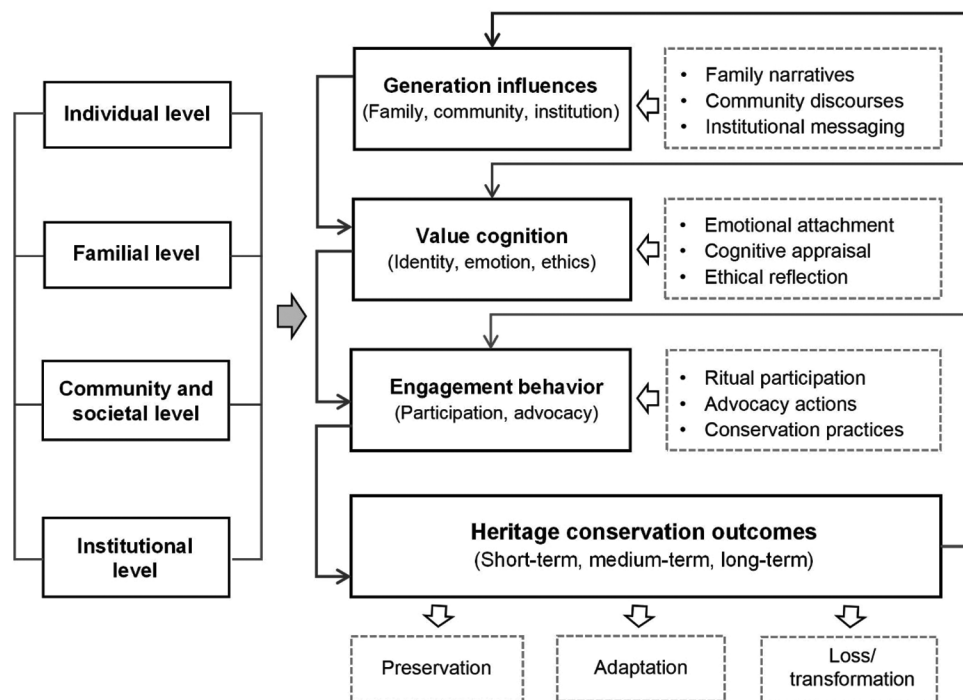


Figure 12. Integrated conceptual model for intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation
Source: Diagram created by the authors.

contested.

- (iii) Community and societal level: Following the participatory frameworks advocated by Tran *et al.* (2020) and Owley (2015), this layer addresses how community structures, social norms, and participatory governance mechanisms mediate collective heritage practices and engagement strategies.
- (iv) Institutional level: Institutional factors—including legal frameworks, policy initiatives, and heritage charters—create enabling or constraining environments for heritage transmission and conservation efforts, embodying the macro-level conditions under which individual and collective actions unfold.

By integrating insights across these four levels, the proposed model transcends the limitations of single-discipline perspectives and offers a holistic, dynamic, and reflexive account of how heritage values are sustained and transformed across generations.

This integrated model advances beyond existing frameworks in three key ways:

- (i) Dynamic reciprocity: Unlike static transmission models, it incorporates bidirectional feedback loops where conservation outcomes reshape generational perceptions, creating evolving value systems.
- (ii) Multi-scale integration: It uniquely bridges micro-level psychological processes with macro-level institutional

dynamics through explicit connecting mechanisms.

- (iii) Cultural responsiveness: The model incorporates indigenous and non-Western knowledge transmission systems through its community-level components, addressing gaps in existing Western-centric frameworks.

To enhance practical applicability, the model can be operationalized through:

- (i) Measurement protocols: Development of culturally-adapted instruments for assessing generational influences through life history interviews and engagement behaviors through participatory observation. For example, generational influences can be measured through structured life history interviews that capture family heritage narratives, childhood exposure to cultural practices, and formative experiences with heritage sites. Engagement behaviors can be assessed through a mixed-method approach combining participatory observation at heritage sites, activity logs documenting conservation participation, and behavioral intention scales validated across cultural contexts.
- (ii) Implementation pathways: Structured community dialogue processes that activate the familial and community levels simultaneously. Practical implementation can include intergenerational heritage workshops where family units collectively document their heritage knowledge, community mapping

exercises that identify locally valued heritage assets, and facilitated dialogues between elders and youth to create conservation priorities. These processes should be designed to respect indigenous knowledge protocols and accommodate diverse communication styles.

- (iii) Policy integration: Institutional mechanisms that translate individual and community-level insights into heritage management policies. This requires establishing formal channels for community input in heritage decision-making, developing participatory budgeting processes for conservation funding, and creating accountability mechanisms to ensure that generational perspectives inform policy outcomes. Policy integration should also include monitoring frameworks that track how conservation outcomes subsequently influence community value perceptions, completing the feedback loop depicted in the model.

6. Conclusion

This review contributes to knowledge of intergenerational values in heritage conservation through the PRISMA and SPAR-4-SLR protocols. It reduces bias through its transparent, reproducible methods for data selection, collection, and synthesis. In 63 of the included articles, the variety of methods employed, and the strengths and weaknesses of each were assessed.

The review stresses the challenges of preserving culture from one generation to the next by showing that heritage conservation is a fluid process shaped by age, culture, and new technologies. Through computational analysis, map-making, and theme comparison, key research topics were identified: Varying cultural values across generations; involving all groups in heritage management; protecting heritage for future generations; using modern technology to learn about heritage; and employing educational approaches to transmit culture and heritage, thereby supporting identity and belonging.

Three critical gaps emerged from this synthesis:

- The field is marked by an overreliance on cross-sectional and retrospective self-reported data, which fails to capture the evolving nature of value transmission across generations. There is a conspicuous absence of longitudinal studies that could illuminate how intergenerational values and conservation behaviors change over time.
- Furthermore, while this review systematically analyzed indexed English-language publications, it inherently reflects Anglo-American and European articles and may underrepresent indigenous and non-Western heritage conservation approaches that are documented in other languages. Empirical research remains heavily skewed toward Western contexts,

neglecting the rich and diverse systems of knowledge transmission prevalent in indigenous and non-Western cultures. This gap limits the development of globally relevant and culturally informed frameworks for heritage conservation.

- The articles are characterized by disciplinary silos, with limited efforts to synthesize cultural transmission, relational ethics, and sustainable development into a cohesive analytical framework. This fragmentation hampers the creation of integrated policies and practical guidelines that address the full complexity of intergenerational value in heritage management.

The diversity of approaches documented in this review highlights the interdisciplinary background of heritage studies. Nevertheless, it introduces challenges, such as cultural bias in measurement devices, reliance on people's reports of their behavior, and difficulties in synthesizing results across different studies. The present review proposes that assessing heritage values should be well-planned, participative, and involve individuals from different ages and backgrounds, by using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

This review suggests that the study of intergenerational value perception in heritage conservation should shift toward models that integrate public participation. Moreover, it supports a view that is more people-oriented and value-centered and regards heritage as something that evolves alongside communities as new technologies are introduced. The conceptual framework is integrated to encompass the personal, family, community, and institutional spheres of understanding to explain and ensure the preservation of heritage.

Overall, this systematic review offers a strong model for future research and highlights themes that focus on openness, interdisciplinary studies, and rapid response to changes in the cultural field of heritage conservation. Closing the mentioned gaps in research will help make effective, fair, and efficient strategies for safeguarding heritage for all generations.

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The authors declare they have no competing interests.

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Availability of data

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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