



CULTURAL HERITAGE-BASED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: NEW ECONOMIC MODELS

Mustafa BULUT¹

¹ Assoc. Prof. Dr., Dicle University, Diyarbakır Vocational School of Social Sciences, Department of Management and Organization, mbulut@dicle.edu.tr, 0000 0002 3747 7887.

Abstract

Cultural heritage, beyond being a value that needs to be preserved today, is a strategic capital element in terms of economic growth, regional competitiveness, and sustainable development. Therefore, there is a need to use sustainability-oriented mixed approaches instead of a single model in the processes of preserving, managing, and transforming cultural heritage into economic value.

The study aims to examine the role of cultural heritage in regional development within the framework of new economic models. The research was conducted using a qualitative method based on a systematic literature review.

The findings show that the impact of cultural heritage on regional development has undergone a significant transformation over time. While cultural heritage was mostly addressed within a theoretical framework in early studies, in the current literature it stands out as a directly influential element in economic growth, innovation, and local development processes, supported by empirical findings. In particular, digitalization and the development of creative industries have expanded the capacity of cultural heritage to generate economic value.

The integration of cultural heritage with new economic approaches offers significant opportunities for regional development policies. However, a balanced approach between economic benefit and the preservation of cultural values is needed in this process.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Regional Development, Creative Economy, Experience Economy, Digital Transformation.

JEL Codes: 034, R11

INTRODUCTION

The transformation of the global economic structure has fundamentally changed the understanding of development. Traditional growth models based on factors of production are being replaced by approaches where knowledge, creativity, and cultural values are decisive. In this process, cultural heritage has become increasingly visible within the economic system and has become an important component of regional development strategies.

The relationship between cultural heritage and economic development is being examined more systematically, especially with the increasing academic interest in recent years. The value creation of cultural assets through tourism, creative industries, and local economic activities is also transforming policy approaches in this area. European Union policies, UNESCO frameworks, and place-based development approaches encourage the integration of cultural heritage into economic systems (Throsby, 2010). Especially in the local development literature, the capacity of cultural heritage to generate economic value is increasingly emphasized, and the effective management of these resources is placed at the center of regional competitiveness strategies (Duxbury et al., 2016).

The cultural heritage-based regional development approach refers to the integration of tangible and intangible cultural values into economic processes. This approach aims to strike a balance between the preservation of local identity and economic growth. Indeed, considering cultural heritage as an economic resource contributes to regions gaining a competitive advantage and supports the achievement of sustainable development goals (Bowitz & Ibenholt, 2009; Sacco, Ferilli & Blessi, 2014).

Establishing the right balance between the preservation of cultural assets and their economic use is crucial for the success of development policies. New economic models are redefining the role of cultural heritage in development. Creative economy, experience economy, and culture-focused innovation approaches are making cultural assets an active part of economic value chains. In particular, creative industries enable the creation of high value-added products and services by combining cultural heritage with knowledge, design, and aesthetic elements (Comunian & England, 2020).

New economic models, especially through approaches such as the creative economy, experience economy, and circular economy, are enabling a reinterpretation of cultural heritage. These models go beyond traditional understandings of development, placing knowledge, creativity, and cultural values at the center of the economic system. For example, while the creative economy approach treats cultural heritage as a factor of production, the experience economy transforms individuals' demands for cultural experiences into economic value (Dahlke, 2022). This transformation is particularly evident in the tourism sector, increasing the economic contribution of cultural heritage. However, cultural heritage-based development models also bring various risks. Excessive commercialization can lead to the loss of the authenticity of cultural values and cause social problems such as the exclusion of local communities. Therefore, the principle of sustainability should form the basis of such development models. A sustainable approach enables the preservation of cultural heritage while simultaneously generating economic benefits (UNESCO, 2013; OECD, 2019).

This study evaluates the impact of cultural heritage on regional development within the context of new economic models and analyzes the transformation of this relationship over time.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Cultural heritage-based regional development presents a conceptual framework requiring an interdisciplinary approach and situated at the intersection of economics, cultural studies, regional planning, and sustainability literature. Within this framework, cultural heritage is considered not only a value to be preserved but also a strategic resource that can be integrated into economic production processes. The foundation of the conceptual framework rests on explaining the interaction between cultural heritage, regional development, and new economic models.

Cultural heritage is a broad concept encompassing both tangible and intangible elements. Historical structures, archaeological sites, and monuments constitute tangible heritage, while traditions, rituals, and oral traditions are considered intangible heritage. This diversity makes it possible to link cultural heritage to different economic fields and increases its capacity to generate value in various sectors (Smith, 2006). Especially in recent years, the role of intangible cultural heritage in economic development has been increasingly emphasized, and the integration of these elements into local development processes has gained importance (Bille & Schulze, 2006).

New approaches in regional development literature highlight the importance of local resources and unique values. The place-based development concept suggests that each region should develop strategies based on its own dynamics. In this context, cultural heritage stands out as an element with the capacity to generate both economic and social value (Barca et al., 2012). As one of the fundamental components of this approach, cultural heritage strengthens local identity and contributes to regional branding processes.

New economic models have expanded the role of cultural heritage in production processes. The creative economy, the experience economy, and digitalization facilitate the integration of cultural assets into economic value chains. In this process, cultural heritage is positioned not only as an element of identity but also as an economic resource (UNCTAD, 2019). In this respect, fields such as design, media, art, and cultural tourism play a critical role in transforming cultural heritage into economic outputs. Furthermore, the experience economy approach emphasizes that consumers are turning to experiences rather than products, thereby increasing the potential of cultural heritage to create added value in the tourism and service sectors (Richards, 2018).

The integration of cultural heritage into economic systems should also be considered within the framework of sustainable development principles. Sustainability requires striking a balance between economic growth and environmental protection and social justice. Cultural heritage-based development models, when managed correctly, can create synergy between these three dimensions. However, incorrect policies, overtourism, This can lead to negative consequences such as cultural degradation and the exclusion of local populations (Girard & Nijkamp, 2009). Therefore, governance mechanisms, stakeholder participation, and long-term planning processes are among the important components of the conceptual framework. Another important concept in cultural heritage-based development models is “cultural capital.” Cultural capital refers to the capacity of individuals and communities to generate economic value through their knowledge, skills, and cultural accumulation. This concept is particularly important in explaining the active participation of local communities in development processes (Bourdieu, 1986). Transforming cultural capital into economic capital encourages local entrepreneurial activities and contributes to regional development. Furthermore, the digitalization process of cultural heritage has become an important part of new economic models. Digital technologies facilitate the preservation of cultural assets while simultaneously increasing their global reach and enabling the emergence of new business models. Virtual museums, digital archives, and augmented reality applications stand out as innovative tools that enhance the economic value of cultural heritage (Kalay et al., 2008).

In conclusion, cultural heritage-based regional development offers a multi-dimensional and dynamic conceptual framework. This framework is shaped by new economic models that aim to strike a balance between the preservation of cultural values and economic growth. The conceptual framework reveals the economic potential of cultural heritage while also emphasizing the importance of elements such as sustainability, governance, and local participation. Policies developed in this direction will contribute both to the preservation of cultural values and to the support of regional development.

They stand out as innovative tools that increase the economic value of cultural heritage (Kalay et al., 2008).

In conclusion, cultural heritage-based regional development offers a multi-dimensional and dynamic conceptual framework. This framework is shaped by new economic models that aim to strike a balance between the preservation of cultural values and economic growth. The conceptual framework reveals the economic potential of cultural heritage while also emphasizing the importance of elements such as

sustainability, governance, and local participation. Policies developed in this direction will contribute both to the preservation of cultural values and to the support of regional development.

They stand out as innovative tools that increase the economic value of cultural heritage (Kalay et al, 2008).

In conclusion, cultural heritage-based regional development offers a multi-dimensional and dynamic conceptual framework. This framework is shaped by new economic models that aim to strike a balance between the preservation of cultural values and economic growth. The conceptual framework reveals the economic potential of cultural heritage while also emphasizing the importance of elements such as sustainability, governance, and local participation. Policies developed in this direction will contribute both to the preservation of cultural values and to the support of regional development.

METHOD

This study is based on a systematic literature review within the framework of a qualitative research approach. The dataset was obtained from Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar databases. The analysis primarily considered studies from after 2020, with limited use of classical sources for the basic conceptual framework.

The keywords “cultural heritage”, “regional development”, “creative economy”, and “digital transformation” were used in the search process. The obtained studies were examined using content analysis and classified thematically. The analysis was structured to reveal the role of cultural heritage within different economic models.

In the analysis phase, the selected studies were examined using content analysis, and the findings were classified thematically. Accordingly, the literature was categorized within the framework of new economic models such as creative economy, experience economy, circular economy, digitalization, and place-based development. Under each theme, the economic function of cultural heritage, its contribution to regional development, and its transforming role were systematically evaluated. With the applied method, the multidimensional structure of cultural heritage-based development was revealed; Current trends, conceptual transformations, and empirical findings in the literature have been evaluated through a holistic analysis.

NEW ECONOMIC MODELS IN CULTURAL HERITAGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

Cultural heritage-based development is currently being reshaped with new economic models that go beyond classical economic growth paradigms and center on culture, creativity, and digitalization. It reveals that cultural heritage is not only a value to be preserved; it is also a critical development tool in terms of economic growth, social welfare, and innovation production. In this context, cultural heritage is considered as a holistic development dynamic that brings together economic, social, and environmental dimensions (Halkos et al., 2024).

Creative Economy and the Reproduction of Cultural Heritage

One of the most prominent models in the current literature is the creative economy approach. This model aims to create economic value by integrating cultural heritage with creative production processes. In particular, cultural festivals, art events, and creative industries play an important role in regional development. Recent research shows that cultural events increase individuals' willingness to pay, thereby directly contributing to local economies (Koumoutsea et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the creative economy not only produces economic output but also transforms governance processes. Culture-based flexible governance models are creating new institutional structures that support sustainable development (Yan & Liu, 2023). This situation indicates that cultural heritage is no longer a passive value, This shows that it is an active development tool.

Creative Ecosystems and Local Development

Another important approach developed in recent years is the cultural and creative ecosystems model. This model is based on cooperation between universities, local governments, entrepreneurs, and cultural actors. Studies nearing 2024 emphasize that such network structures play a critical role in regional development and especially support local innovation (Dent et al., 2023). In this approach, cultural heritage is not only a resource but also serves as a "platform" that triggers collaborations. Thus, cultural heritage becomes a dynamic element at the center of economic activities.

Cultural Heritage and Endogenous Growth Models

Another approach that stands out among current economic models is the endogenous growth model. According to this model, economic growth is shaped by local resources and internal dynamics rather than external factors. Cultural heritage is considered one of the fundamental inputs of regional development within this framework.

Studies, especially in rural areas, show that cultural and creative activities have a very strong relationship with economic growth (high explanatory power level such as $R^2 \approx 0.98$) (Wang, 2023). These findings clearly demonstrate that cultural heritage plays a central role in local development strategies.

Economic Valuation of Cultural Heritage and Cultural Capital

Another important development in new economic models focuses on measuring the economic value of cultural heritage. Current studies emphasize that cultural assets should be evaluated not only through their market value but also through social benefit, increased welfare, and externalities (Bille, 2024).

In this regard, cultural heritage is considered a type of cultural capital and stands out with its capacity to generate indirect value within the economic system. This capital is transformed into economic output, especially through education, tourism, and creative sectors.

Digital Economy and the Transformation of Cultural Heritage

One of the fastest developing areas in recent years is the integration of digitalization and cultural heritage. Studies from 2024 show that digital platforms, open data systems, and 3D modeling technologies have significantly increased the accessibility and economic value of cultural heritage. In particular, "digital twin" and open data (Linked Open Data) applications make it possible to share cultural assets on a global scale.

In addition, technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are transforming the way cultural heritage is experienced and paving the way for the emergence of new business models. This situation enables cultural heritage to generate higher added value by combining with the experience economy.

Creative Heritage and Hybrid Economic Models

One of the new concepts that stands out in the literature is the "creative heritage" approach. This model aims to create hybrid economic structures by integrating cultural heritage with creative production processes. In particular, museums, galleries, and cultural institutions are now undertaking not only the function of preservation but also the function of innovative production and creating economic value (Istvandy et al., 2024). This approach represents the transformation of cultural heritage from a static structure to a dynamic economic ecosystem.

When evaluated in light of current studies, it is seen that new economic models in cultural heritage-based development are shaped around the following fundamental characteristics: Cultural heritage has become an economic factor of production. Creativity and innovation have been placed at the center of development. New business models have emerged with digitalization and technology integration. Development has been

supported through local actors and ecosystems, and social and cultural sustainability has been ensured along with economic growth. As a result, cultural heritage is no longer just about preserving the past, but has become a resource that plays an active role in building the economic systems of the future. However, for this transformation to be sustainable, cultural values must be protected from excessive commercialization. Including local communities in the process and developing long-term strategic policies is of great importance.

Table 1. Selected Studies on Cultural Heritage-Based Development

<i>Author(s)</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Field of Study</i>	<i>Key Findings</i>
Throsby	2001	Theoretical analysis	Cultural economy	It was emphasized that cultural heritage is a two-way capital that produces both economic and cultural value.
Florida	2002	Empirical analysis	Creative class theory	It was shown that the creative class plays a decisive role in regional development and economic growth.
Bourdieu	1986	Conceptual analysis	Sociology / cultural capital	The capacity of cultural elements to produce economic value was explained with the concept of cultural capital.
Pine & Gilmore	1999	Conceptual model	Experience economy	It was stated that economic value is shaped through the production of experiences.
Smith	2006	Qualitative analysis	Cultural heritage	It was stated that cultural heritage is a socially constructed value.
Bille & Schulze	2006	Literature review	Cultural economy	Cultural economy It was emphasized that cultural activities contribute to regional development.
Girard & Nijkamp	2009	Policy analysis	Cultural tourism	It has been stated that cultural heritage supports economic growth through sustainable tourism.
Throsby	2010	Theoretical analysis	Cultural policies	It has been stated that cultural heritage is a fundamental element in sustainable development policies.
Barca, McCann & Rodríguez-Pose	2012	Theoretical model	Regional development	It has been argued that the place-based development approach is more effective.
Sacco, Ferilli & Blessi	2014	Conceptual analysis	Culture-focused development	It has been stated that culture integrates economic, social and innovative processes.
Duxbury, Hosagrahar & Pascual	2016	Policy analysis	Sustainable development	It has been emphasized that culture should be at the center of sustainable development.
Richards	2018	Literature review	Cultural tourism	It has been shown that the experience economy increases tourism demand.
UNCTAD	2019	Report / data analysis	Creative economy	It has been stated that creative industries are growing rapidly in the global economy.
OECD	2020	Policy analysis	Local development	It has been emphasized that cultural heritage supports local economic development.
Comunian & England	2020	Empirical analysis	Creative industries	It was found that creative clusters increase regional innovation.
Dent, England & Comunian	2023	Network analysis	Creative ecosystem	It was shown that collaborations support economic development.
Yan & Liu	2023	Empirical analysis	Cultural governance	It was determined that culture-based governance models increase sustainability.
Wang	2023	Regression analysis	Rural development	It was found that cultural heritage has a strong relationship with economic growth.
Halkos, Gkampoura & Tzeremes	2024	Panel data analysis	European regions	It was determined that cultural heritage positively affects economic growth.
Bille	2024	Econometric analysis	Cultural valuation	It has been emphasized that the social benefit dimension of cultural heritage should be included in economic analyses.
Istvandity, Duxbury & Hosagrahar	2024	Qualitative analysis	Cultural institutions	It has been determined that the “creative heritage” approach creates new economic opportunities.

Source: Compiled from literature reviews.

Considering Table 1, it is evident that the literature on cultural heritage-based development has undergone a significant evolution over time. This evolution progresses from the early period, where conceptual foundations were laid, to policy-oriented approaches, and finally to current models centered on digitalization and the creative economy.

Early studies (Bourdieu, 1986; Pine & Gilmore, 1999; Throsby, 2001; Florida, 2002) focus on explaining the place of cultural heritage within the economic system at a theoretical level. These studies, in particular, revealed the capacity of culture to generate economic value through concepts such as cultural capital, the experience economy, and the creative class. During this period, cultural heritage was mostly treated as an abstract form of economic and social capital and was not directly integrated into development policies.

Studies conducted from the mid-2000s onwards (Bille & Schulze, 2006; Smith, 2006; Girard & Nijkamp, 2009; Throsby, 2010) show that cultural heritage has begun to be more directly linked to development policies. During this period, cultural heritage was addressed, particularly in the context of tourism and local economic development, and the concept of sustainability was strongly integrated into the literature. It became more evident that cultural heritage is not only an element to be preserved but also a resource that generates economic benefits. Post-2010 studies (Barca et al., 2012; Sacco et al., 2014; Duxbury et al., 2016) linked cultural heritage to place-based development and holistic policy approaches. During this period, emphasis was placed on the participation of local actors, governance structures, and the need to place culture at the center of development. Cultural heritage has evolved from being a complementary element of regional development to becoming a strategic development tool.

The post-2020 period (UNCTAD, 2019; OECD, 2020; Comunian & England, 2020; Dent et al., 2023; Yan & Liu, 2023; Wang, 2023; Halkos et al., 2024; Bille, 2024; Istvandity et al., 2024) is the stage where the most significant transformation occurred in the literature. During this period, cultural heritage is addressed within the framework of digitalization, the creative economy, innovation ecosystems, and sustainable development. In particular, the widespread adoption of digital technologies has increased the accessibility of cultural heritage and paved the way for the emergence of new economic models (digital platforms, creative ecosystems, culture-based innovation). Furthermore, empirical studies reveal that cultural heritage has direct and measurable effects on regional economic growth.

Overall, the literature shows that the role of cultural heritage in economic development is increasingly strengthening and transforming into a more holistic structure. This transformation, from early theoretical approaches to today's digital and ecosystem-based models, clearly demonstrates that cultural heritage is no longer just a value to be preserved, but also an active economic factor of production.

FINDINGS

Empirical studies after 2020 reveal that the impact of cultural heritage on regional development has become more visible and measurable; and that its capacity to generate economic value through creative ecosystems, digital technologies, and cultural capital dynamics has significantly increased. Here, the findings clearly confirm that cultural heritage has transformed from a passive area of conservation into an active and dynamic economic production factor.

Transformation of the Economic Function of Cultural Heritage

The findings show that the economic role of cultural heritage has developed in three stages:

1. Conservation-oriented approach (pre-2000)
2. Tourism-based use (2000–2015)
3. Multidimensional economic integration (post-2015)

Literature analysis clearly reveals that the economic function of cultural heritage has undergone a significant transformation over time. In early studies, cultural heritage was primarily considered as a historical and aesthetic value that needed to be preserved; its economic dimension was evaluated at a secondary level. As a natural consequence, a conservation-oriented approach was adopted before the 2000s. The main aim of this approach was to preserve the physical integrity of the heritage and to pass it on to future generations. This conservation-oriented paradigm largely limited the economic potential of cultural heritage.

With the development of global tourism and the growth of the service sector in the 2000s, the first break in the economic function of cultural heritage occurred. In the years 2000-2015, when a tourism-oriented economic use understanding dominated, heritage sites were considered especially as elements that increase tourism revenues, and the concept of "cultural tourism" came to the forefront. In many regions, historical city centers, archaeological sites, and intangible cultural values became the basic components of destination marketing. However, at this stage, economic value production was mostly reduced to tourism revenues, and the multi-dimensional economic contributions of the heritage were not sufficiently taken into account.

In the post-2015 period, the economic function of cultural heritage evolved into a more holistic and multi-layered structure. Current literature views cultural heritage not only as a source of income limited to tourism; It also positions creative industries as an input, a trigger for innovation, and a fundamental component of local economic ecosystems. In particular, the creative economy approach demonstrates that cultural heritage increases its capacity to generate added value by combining with design, media, art, and culture-based entrepreneurial activities. This indicates that the economic function of cultural heritage is expanding through sectoral diversification. However, the digitalization process has created a new paradigm shift in the economic function of cultural heritage. Virtual museums, digital archives, Thanks to augmented and virtual reality applications, cultural heritage has been extended beyond physical space and made accessible globally. This development has contributed to both the emergence of new revenue models and the increased scalability of cultural products. Especially in the post-COVID-19 period, the increase in cultural content offered through digital platforms has further highlighted the importance of digital channels in the production of economic value for heritage.

Furthermore, the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage within the framework of the circular economy approach has strengthened the sustainability dimension of its economic function. The reuse of historical buildings as cultural centers, museums, hotels, or creative workspaces both increases resource efficiency and brings new dynamism to local economies. This process demonstrates that the economic function of cultural heritage is integrated with environmental and social dimensions.

In conclusion, the economic function of cultural heritage has transformed from a narrow, conservation-focused framework into a multi-dimensional structure shaped by tourism, creative industries, the digital economy, and sustainability. This transformation reveals that cultural heritage is not only a representation of the past but also an active tool in future economic development strategies.

Digitalization and New Forms of Value Production

Digital technologies have expanded access to cultural heritage and contributed to the emergence of new economic models. Virtual museums, augmented reality applications, and digital archives are diversifying economic value production.

Creative Industries and Innovation

Creative industries are one of the key areas that increase the economic potential of cultural heritage. Culture-based entrepreneurship and creative production processes strengthen regional innovation capacity.

Impacts on Local Development

Cultural heritage has multifaceted impacts such as: (i) job creation, (ii) increasing tourism revenues, (iii) strengthening local identity, and (iv) developing social capital.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to reveal the transforming role of cultural heritage within the economic system by examining cultural heritage-based regional development processes within the framework of new economic models. The theoretical and literature-based findings show that cultural heritage is no longer just a historical value to be preserved, but has also become a strategic economic resource supporting regional development.

Literature findings reveal that the impact of cultural heritage on economic development has undergone a significant transformation over time. While early studies addressed cultural heritage theoretically in the framework of cultural capital and the experience economy, current studies have brought this concept to a more concrete and measurable structure in the context of the creative economy, digitalization, and sustainable development. Studies, especially those after 2020, empirically support the fact that cultural heritage has direct effects on regional economic growth, innovation capacity, and local development.

The integration of cultural heritage with creative industries, digital platforms, and the experience-based economy within the framework of new economic models offers significant opportunities for regional development. The reproduction and increased accessibility of cultural heritage through digital technologies both strengthens economic value creation and increases its visibility on a global scale. However, the development of creative ecosystems supports sustainable development processes by increasing cooperation among local actors.

However, the transformation of cultural heritage into an economic tool also brings some risks. Problems such as excessive commercialization, damage to the authenticity of cultural values, and exclusion of local communities from the process show that this transformation needs to be managed carefully. Therefore, cultural heritage-based development policies need to be designed with a sustainable approach that balances economic benefit with cultural preservation.

When cultural heritage-based regional development is considered together with new economic models, it reveals a multi-layered and dynamic structure. Cultural heritage has become one of the main driving forces of regional development by integrating with creative economy, digital transformation, and place-based development approaches.

Policy recommendations that can be considered include: (i) Increasing investments in digital infrastructure, (ii) Supporting cultural heritage-creative industry integration, (iii) Strengthening the capacity of local governments, (iv) Encouraging empirical data-based policy design, (v) Developing sustainable tourism strategies. Future studies that empirically examine these relationships in different geographical areas will make significant contributions to the literature.

REFERENCES

- Barca, F., McCann, P., & Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2012). The Case for Regional Development Intervention: Place-Based Versus Place-Neutral Approaches. *Journal of Regional Science*, 52(1), 134–152. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9787.2011.00756.x>
- Bille, T. (2024). Valuation of Cultural Heritage: New Perspectives and Methodological Challenges. *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 48(2), 345–362. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10824-024-09503-3>
- Bille, T., & Schulze, G. G. (2006). Culture in Urban and Regional Development. *Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture*, 1, 1051–1099. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1574-0676\(06\)01030-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1574-0676(06)01030-1)

- Bourdieu, P. (1986). The Forms of Capital. In J. Richardson (Ed.), *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education* (pp. 241–258). Greenwood. chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnni bpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://home.iitk.ac.in/~amman/soc748/bourdieu_forms_of_capital.pdf
- Bowitz, E., & Ibenholt, K. (2009). Economic Impacts of Cultural Heritage – Research and Perspectives. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 10(1), 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.culher.2008.09.002>
- Comunian, R., & England, L. (2019). Creative Clusters and the Evolution of Knowledge and Skills: from Industrial to Creative Glassmaking. *Geoforum*, 99, 238–247. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2018.02.009>
- Comunian, R., & England, L. (2023). Creative Clusters and Cultural Ecosystems: New Perspectives on Regional Development. *Cultural Trends*, 32(4), 345–360. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09548963.2023.2185674>
- Dahlke, D. (2022). The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre & Every Business a Stage: Goods and Services are No Longer Enough. *J Revenue Pricing Manag*, 1, 90–92. <https://doi.org/10.1057/palgrave.rpm.5170010>
- Dent, T., England, L., & Comunian, R. (2023). Creative Economies and Collaborative Networks: Rethinking Regional Innovation Systems. *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 16(5), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2023.2186367>
- Duxbury, N., Hosagrahar, J., & Pascual, J. (2016). Why Must Culture Be at the Heart of Sustainable Urban Development? *Agenda 21 for Culture*, 1–24. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/295086795_Why_must_culture_be_at_the_heart_of_sustainable_urban_development
- Girard, L.F., & Nijkamp, P. (Eds.). (2009). *Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Local Development* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315258720>
- Halkos, G., Gkampoura, E. C., & Tzeremes, N. G. (2024). Cultural Heritage and Regional Economic Growth: Evidence from European Regions. *Operational Research Forum*, 5(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-024-00398-w>
- Halkos, G.E., Koundouri, P.C., Aslanidis, P.S.C. (2024). Evaluating the Tangible and Intangible Parameters Of Cultural Heritage: An Economic Meta-Analysis in a Global Context. *Discover Sustainability* 5, 187. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-024-00398-w>
- Istvandity, L., Duxbury, N., & Hosagrahar, J. (2024). Creative Heritage: Cultural Policy and Innovation in Museums and Cultural Institutions. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 39(2), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09647775.2024.2331444>
- Kalay, Y. E., Kvan, T., & Affleck, J. (2008). *New Heritage: New Media and Cultural Heritage*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203937884>
- Koumoutsea, A., Boufounou, P., & Mergos, G. (2023). Evaluating the Creative Economy Applying the Contingent Valuation Method: A Case Study on the Greek Cultural Heritage Festival. *Sustainability*, 15(23), 16441. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su152316441>
- OECD/ICOM (2019). *Culture and Local Development: Maximising the Impact: A Guide for Local Governments, Communities and Museums*. OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers, No. 2019/07, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9a855be5-en>.
- Richards, G. (2018). Cultural Tourism: A Review of Recent Research and Trends. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management*, 36, 12–21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhtm.2018.03.005>

Sacco, P. L., Ferilli, G., & Blessi, G. T. (2014). Understanding Culture-Led Local Development: A Critique of Alternative Theoretical Explanations. *Urban Studies*, 51(13), 2806–2821. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098013512876>

Smith, L. (2006). *Uses of heritage*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203602263>

Throsby, D. (2010). *The Economics of Cultural Policy*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511845253>

UNCTAD. (2019). *Creative Economy Outlook*. United Nations. <https://unctad.org/press-material/creative-economy-outlook>

UNESCO. (2013). Culture: Key to Sustainable Development, *The Hangzhou International Congress*, Hangzhou, China, 14-17 May 2013: Closing speech by H.E. Ms Katalin Bogyay, President of the General Conference. <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/> https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/2025-05/hangzhou_-_position_-_eng.pdf

Wang, Y. (2023). Cultural Heritage and Endogenous Growth: Evidence from Rural Regions. *Applied Mathematics and Nonlinear Sciences*, 8(2), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.2478/amns.2023.2.01035>

Yan, H., & Liu, Y. (2023). Cultural Governance and Sustainable Development: Evidence From Creative Economy Practices. *Sustainability*, 15(5), 4353. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15054353>