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*(Re)Configuring Downtown Cairo: The Politics of Heritage in Egypt post-2011 revolution*

The research discusses **the politics of heritage in Egypt after the 2011 revolution**. By **tackling the case of the heritage revitalization project of Downtown Cairo**- the centre and the main symbol of the 2011 revolution, I argue that the recent interventions of **the private sector** (al-Ismailia Company for Real Estate Development) to 'revitalize heritage' in the area, as well as its collaboration with the **military regime** are creating a **new 'heritage regime'** aiming at controlling the area and erasing the memory of the 2011 revolution. By regime here, I mean **new governance coalition creating new rules, new frameworks and new exceptional practices and grey areas for heritage governance** reflecting the authority of the military rule in Egypt. I consider that, although the involvement of the private sector might seem an act of decentralization of power and a neoliberal urban practice, **it is not 'neoliberalism as usual' and cannot be depoliticized** since it leads to the growth of the power of the state. Hence, the research works on **unpacking the narratives of heritage governance** in Downtown Cairo and their role in supporting the current authoritarian project of the state, in other words, the mode of operation of the suggested heritage regime.

Methodologically, the research questions **who governs, how they govern and what are they governing** in order to explore how heritage regime(s) is made in the case of Cairo. It answers these questions through **processes and networks tracing through proxies and micro-practices**.

The research is contributing to Critical Heritage Literature and its manifesto since it tackles **heritage making in NON-UNESCO World Heritage Site**, such as the case Downtown Cairo which locally recognised. Hence, it challenges northern UNESCO-based discourses of heritage governance reflecting **a case of heritage governance from below**. The research is also **developing the notion of 'heritage regime'** by using Urban Regime theory to reach practices in heritage contexts. The research contributes to local literature by adding a new layer of complexity to reading to Downtown heritage practices that were always classified as Public-Private Partnership.