

ASK
Art, Science and Knowledge

Three Conditions for the Preservation of Collective Cultural Goods

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Seminar Room AS01 via Röntgen 1

Bocconi



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Welcome Address

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This conceptual paper examines the conditions necessary for the preservation of collective cultural goods, such as heritage sites, cultural practices and art forms. Building on the work of Ansari, Wijen & Gray (2013) and Ostrom (1990; 1999; 2009), I argue that collective goods are socially constructed through ongoing sensemaking processes, rely on reasoning beyond economic self-interest, and require collective action for their maintenance. I then propose a model of the factors that facilitate collective action in the context of collective cultural goods, which are identified as: i) the collective ascription of intrinsic value, ii) autonomous organization and iii) access to capital. These arguments are illustrated through the case of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Venice and its Lagoon.