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**The Postcolonial and Postsecular Politics of Heritage Conservation in Hong Kong, Penang and Singapore**

Emile Durkhem once criticized his compatriots for reviving the ancient cult of the City State that fused public religion and civil morality to counter the modern cult of the individual. This paper analyzes heritage conservation in the three globalizing ex-British Chinese-majority cities as caught up in this cultural politics of modern sociality, but in specifically postcolonial ways. I show that urban heritage sites offer the Anglophone elite of the three cities the material foil for producing their own hybrid, postsecular, 'Chinese' civic morality vis-à-vis the individualism identified as reflecting the West, capitalism and secular modernity. This hybrid civic morality is inscribed unto the very identity of each city *as global/world city*. While similarly postcolonial, I also argue that the civic morality encourages heritage politics that reflect the unique circumstances of incomplete sovereignty each city-state finds itself in the empire of old nationalism and new capitalism today.