

Navigating Justice in Cultural Heritage: Intersections of Ethics, Law, and Museum Practice

March 13 and 14, 2025

In-person and online

The intersection of justice, cultural heritage, law, museum practice, and policy present a complex landscape shaped by historical legacies, contemporary challenges, and evolving global norms. This conference explores the relationships and current challenges within these fields, addressing key themes such as cultural heritage preservation, legal frameworks governing artifact acquisition and repatriation, museum ethics, and the protection of culture during times of conflict and climate crises. Participants will examine historical injustices, colonial-era acquisitions, human rights, and Indigenous rights through case studies that explore ethical, legal, and policy frameworks governing cultural heritage practices. The conference aims to further these discussions and contribute to the development of more just and equitable approaches to cultural heritage preservation and repatriation.

DAY 1: Thursday, March 13, 2025

4:00-5:30pm

DePaul Loop Campus, Lewis 805 (25 East Jackson Boulevard)

Panel 1: Justice in the Museum

- [Julian Siggers](#), President and CEO of The Field Museum
- [Jacques Schuhmacher](#), Executive Director of Provenance Research at the Art Institute of Chicago
- [Kim Vigue](#), Executive Director, Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum
- Moderator: [Patty Gerstenblith](#), Distinguished Research Professor of Law and Director of its Center for Art, Museum and Cultural Heritage Law, DePaul University

5:30-7:30pm

DePaul Loop Campus, 7th Floor Student Lounge (25 East Jackson Boulevard)

ACHLS (Art & Cultural Heritage Law Society) Reception

Please RSVP for yourself and +1's to achls.depaul@gmail.com

DAY 2: Friday March 14, 2025

All Day: DePaul Center, Room 8005 (1 East Jackson Boulevard)

8:30am

Breakfast

9:00am

Panel 2: Cultural Heritage through a Human Rights Perspective (Righting Wrongs – Forms of Justice)

- Featured speaker: [Karima Bennoune](#), Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law, The University of Michigan
A human rights approach to cultural heritage and its dangers
- Discussant: [Gracie Golden](#), Senior Officer, Strategic Initiatives & Relocation, Artistic Freedom Initiative
- Moderator: [Jane Levine](#), Co-founder and Managing Partner of The ArtRisk Group

10:30am

Break

10:45am

Panel 3: Updates from the Field: Cultural Heritage at Risk around the World (*Sponsored by the [US Committee of the Blue Shield](#)*)

- **Guatemala** - [Samuel Franco Arce](#), President, Blue Shield Guatemala
- **Lebanon** - [Joanne Farchakh Bajjali](#), archaeologist and journalist who helped establish the Lebanese Committee of the Blue Shield
- **Syria** - [Isber Sabrina](#), Syrian-Spanish archaeologist and Senior Researcher at the Milá and Fontanals Institute for Humanities Research (IMF-CSIC), as well as the President of Heritage for Peace
- **United States** - [Jennifer Gates-Foster](#), Associate Professor of Classics and Archaeology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Ukraine** - [Roksolana Makar](#), Ukrainian art historian, researcher, and writer currently obtaining a Law degree at the Lviv National University
- **Sudan** - [Marc Maillot](#), Director and Chief Curator, Museum at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures at the University of Chicago
- **Presentation of the USCBS Outstanding Military Service Award** to Colonel Andrew Scott DeJesse, 38G/6V Heritage and Preservation Officer, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)
- Moderator: [Corine Wegener](#), art historian and curator specializing in the protection of cultural heritage in conflict zones and disaster areas

12:15pm

Lunch

1:15pm

Panel 4: Lessons Learned – Success and Failure in Protecting the Past

- Featured speaker: [Neil J. Brodie](#), archaeologist and leading expert in the trafficking of artifacts and the protection of cultural heritage, he is a member of the Trafficking Culture project *In Small Things Forgotten? The Nature of the Antiquities Trade in the Twenty-first Century*.
- Discussant: [Max Scriwanek](#), Director of the National Archives Curacao
- Discussant: [Laurie Rush](#), US Army
- Moderator: [Morag M. Kersel](#), Associate Professor of Anthropology, DePaul University

2:30pm

Closing remarks

- [Patty Gerstenblith](#), Distinguished Research Professor of Law and Director of its Center for Art, Museum and Cultural Heritage Law, DePaul University
- [Morag M. Kersel](#), Associate Professor of Anthropology, DePaul University

3:00pm

Conference End