



International  
Law  
of Culture  
Interest  
Group



**ESIL Research Forum 2025 – Catania (Italy), March 20-21**  
**“International Law in the Age of Permacrisis”**  
**ESIL Interest Group on International Law of Culture**

Pre-Forum Workshop:  
**Cultural Heritage, Social Resilience and Crisis Response in International Law**  
17 March 2025, 13.00-14.45 (CET)

Zoom link: <https://uw-edu-pl.zoom.us/j/94670758367?pwd=8lkBVnxNbonLHe87TvEeax0CZfmffT.1>

13.00 – Introduction – Lucas Lixinski (University of New South Wales, IG Convener)

13.15 – Hitomi Kimura (Otsuma Women’s University), *Climate Change Impact on the World Cultural Heritage in Greenland and Indigenous Peoples’ Cultures*

13.35 – Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín (University of Amsterdam), *Within International Law’s Sistine Chapel: José María Sert y Badia’s “The Lesson of Salamanca” in, and as, International Legal History (1936)*

13.55 – Nuray Ekşi (Marmara University, Istanbul Bar), *Key Obligations of the Parties Involved in the Quasi-Refugee Protection of Endangered Cultural Property*

14:15 – Discussion – Sophie Starrenburg (Leiden University, IG Convener)

14.35 – Future meetings and other initiatives – Andrzej Jakubowski (Polish Academy of Sciences, IG Convener)

**Abstracts:**

- *Climate Change Impact on the World Cultural Heritage in Greenland and Indigenous Peoples’ Cultures* – UNESCO warns of the potential complete disappearance of glaciers by 2100 from almost half of 46 World Heritage sites, especially in the Arctic region, where climate change devalues their potential OUV and threatens Indigenous peoples’ culture such as hunting and fishing. However, the World Heritage Convention does not have any solution other than delisting of the site nor the climate change observatory, and the World Heritage Fund for the World Heritages in Danger is meaningless for lost glaciers. The presentation focuses on the impact of climate change on the World Cultural Heritage in Greenland affecting indigenous peoples’ cultures based on the biology/cultural binary hypothesis.
- *Within International Law’s Sistine Chapel: José María Sert y Badia’s “The Lesson of Salamanca” in, and as, International Legal History (1936)* – in this essay, I analyze the place of José María Sert-y-Badia’s mural “The Lesson of Salamanca” (1936). This colossal artwork was commissioned by the fledging Second Spanish Republic to adorn the meeting hall of the League of Nations’ highest organ: its Council. By glorifying the memory of the Spanish theologian Francisco de Vitoria, “The Lesson of Salamanca” also told a story about the past, present, and future of international law. I trace how Sert’s homage to peace instead became its funeral oration, highlighting the connections between this painting, the Spanish Civil war, and the crisis of the League’s “imperial internationalism.”
- *Refugee-Like Protection for Cultural Property At Risk* – This paper will explore the temporary protection of cultural property as refugees, focusing on the measures taken by countries that host these collections. It will explore the legal responsibilities of both sending and receiving nations, addressing issues like transportation, insurance, conservation, and maintenance. The research will also investigate whether host countries can exhibit these objects. Furthermore, it will review relevant international treaties, national legislation, and guidelines set by NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. The study will conclude by discussing the legal challenges that may arise between lending countries and destination countries, with particular emphasis on conflict resolution and cooperation.

**Bios:**

**Hitomi Kimura** is Associate Professor at Otsuma Women’s University, Tokyo, teaching International Environmental Law.

**Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín** serves as the managing editor of the *Journal of the History of International Law* and is currently a Scholar in Residence at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

**Nuray Ekşi** is a former Lecturer in Private International Law at Marmara University and current legal consultant.