



**International
Law
of Culture
Interest
Group**



**ESIL Annual Conference 2025 – Berlin, Germany
Pre-Conference Workshop of the International Law of Culture Interest Group**

The Future and Past of 'Progress' in Cultural Heritage Law

11 September 2025, 09:00-12:00

- 09:00 – 09:10 **Introduction**
- 09:10 – 09:40 **Panel 1: Progress at the Margins: Heritage Law's Liminal Futures**
- Iris Richer (Université Laval): *Childhood, Cultural Life and Technological Progress: Reflections on the Future of International Law of Culture*
- Ayla do Vale Alves (University of South Australia): *International Indigenous Heritage Safeguarding: Rethinking the Scope of Legal Protection through Indigenous Worldviews*
- Moderator: Sophie Starrenburg (Leiden University)
- 09:40 – 10:30 **Panel 2: Non-Linear Progress: Contested Custodians, Fractured Pasts**
- Lauren Bursey (London School of Economics): *Beyond Silos: Reimagining Cultural Heritage Law for Non-State Actors and Unified Protection*
- Nehir Arslan (Paris 8 University Vincennes Saint-Denis): *Exploitation of Trauma: Usage of Dissonant Heritage for Development*
- Emma Dhondt (University of Edinburgh/KU Leuven): *A Myth of Progress: Historical Perspectives on the Past and Future of Post-Conflict Properties on the World Heritage List*
- Moderator: Andrzej Jakubowski (Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences)
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Break**

10:45 – 11:15

Panel 3: From the Past, in the Present, for the Future? Critiques of Narratives of Progress

Jessica Wiseman (European University Institute): *Protection, Power, and Possession: A Critical History of Heritage Protection in International Law*

Caecilia Alexandre (Université de Montréal): *Protecting and Safeguarding Heritage in the Age of Degrowth: Between a Human-rights Based and a Decolonial Approach*

Moderator: Sophie Starrenburg (Leiden University)

11:15 – 11:45

Panel 4: Heritage in the Crossfire: Rethinking Progress Through Protection

Maddalena Cogorno (University of Florence): *Shielding the Past, Unfolding the Future: The Role of Peacekeepers in the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage*

Anne-Marie Carstens (University of Baltimore School of Law): *Collective Defense of Cultural Heritage*

Moderator: Andrzej Jakubowski (Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

11:45-12:00

Final remarks and IG announcements

Convenors

Andrzej Jakubowski – Giovanni Carlo Bruno – Lucas Lixinski – Sophie Starrenburg