



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