



**International
Law
of Culture
Interest
Group**



**ESIL Annual Conference 2026 – Málaga, Spain
Pre-Conference Workshop of the International Law of Culture Interest Group**

The International Law of Culture at a Crossroads: Past Developments and Future Directions

3 September 09:00-12:00

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome and introduction**

Sophie Starrenburg

09:10 – 10:10 **Contested Heritage, Enduring Frameworks: Rethinking Cultural Justice in International Law**

Joshua Davis (KU Leuven): *UNESCO Heritage Obligations at a Crossroads: Structural Contradictions in Contexts of Resource Extraction and Geopolitical Contestation*

Isabella Salsano (Università del Salento): *Cultural Heritage Protection and the Limits of Existing International Legal Frameworks: Beyond Object-Based Approaches*

Igor Hron (Charles University Prague/Comenius University Bratislava) and Zuzana Löbling (Charles University): *Post-1989 Restitution as a Durable Legal Framework: Why It Still Shapes Cultural Justice Today*

Moderator: Andrzej Jakubowski

10:10 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 11:30 **Heritage in Flux: Expanding Definitions and Exposing Protection Gaps in Conflict**

Andreas Giorgallis (Cardiff University): *Rethinking the Definition of 'Heritage': Towards Heritage as Potentiality*

Ambre Tissot (ENS – Paris Saclay): *Slipping Through the Cracks: International Loans in the Face of Recent Military Conflicts*

Carmen Pérez-González (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid): *Cultural Rights at Play: Athletes in Times of Armed Conflict*

Moderator: Giovanni Carlo Bruno

11:30-11:45 **Discussion and final remarks**

Sophie Starrenburg

11:45-12:00 **Overview of the IG's activities**

Andrzej Jakubowski and Giovanni Carlo Bruno

Convenors

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