



## International Conference

Cultural Property Protection  
in the 21st Century:

# Meeting Requirements across the Forces



11 to 13 November 2024  
National Defence Academy  
Vienna, Austria



Universität für  
Weiterbildung  
Krems



In support of the 70th anniversary  
of the 1954 Hague Convention



**unesco**

Protection of  
Cultural Property in  
the Event of Armed Conflict



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## Cultural Property Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Meeting Requirements across the Forces

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on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1954 First Protocol as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of its 1999 Second Protocol

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70 years after the adoption of the 1954 Hague Convention the implementation of cultural property protection within armed forces and during armed conflict still leaves room for improvement. The International Conference “Cultural Property Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Meeting Requirements across the Forces” raises current questions pertaining to cultural heritage and cultural property protection and addresses common challenges and possibilities for an increased, sustainable implementation of cultural property protection within armed forces. A further objective is to emphasize the significance of tangible and intangible heritage for societies and to elaborate on the added value of cultural property protection for military missions and operations, education and training.

**Date:** 11 to 13 November 2024

**Venue:** National Defence Academy, Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna

**Implementing authority:**

Austrian Armed Forces/National Defence Academy/  
Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness;

*supported by*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
*and in cooperation with*

University for Continuing Education Krems,  
Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection and  
Blue Shield Austria

## CONFERENCE TEAM



### **Nicole GRUBER**

Mag. Nicole Gruber is the researcher and lecturer for cultural property protection at the Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness of the National Defence Academy in Vienna.

She worked as an Anthropologist in Uganda and then joined the Austrian Armed Forces, where she served as a sergeant. Currently she is a reserve officer with the rank of lieutenant and serves as a medical logistics officer. Following her active duty, she moved to the civilian sector and held different positions at the National Defence Academy and in the Federal Ministry of Defence; mainly as a consultant for Africa, the Near and Middle East. In her current position, she is responsible for the training of the Liaison Officers Military Cultural Property Protection of the Austrian Armed Forces. Furthermore, the scientific examination of cultural property/heritage (protection) areas are included in her field of activity.



### **Anna PUHR**

Anna Puhr, MA, is Deputy Secretary General of Blue Shield Austria and an expert in cultural property protection, where she currently supports the Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness of the National Defence Academy.

During her career, she has worked for the United Nations Information Service, the European Forum Alpbach, the Austrian Cultural Forum Brussels and the Burgtheater in Vienna. For two years, she was a policy advisor at the Austrian Mission to NATO representing Austria in committees on human security such as Cultural Property Protection. In 2020, she spent two months with the Lebanese NGO Biladi to research the role of civil society in the protection of cultural heritage during the October Revolution and after the Beirut blast. Since 2023, she has also been a Board member of Blue Shield International, a global organization dedicated to protecting cultural heritage in conflict and crises.



### **Anna KAISER**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Anna Kaiser is the Head of the Center for Cultural Property Protection at the University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria. She holds a PhD in Ancient History from the University of Vienna.

In addition to that she is a reserve officer in the Austrian Armed Forces with the rank of Major, fully trained as liaison officer for cultural property protection. She currently serves as commander of the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit AFDRU. Her research themes predominantly orbit around the protection of cultural property, integrating a multidisciplinary approach that spans ancient history, military studies, and contemporary strategies for safeguarding heritage. Her methodological expertise lies in combining historical analysis with practical military training, emphasizing the application of strategies for protecting cultural heritage in conflict zones and disaster-prone areas.



### **Peter HAROLD**

Prof. CommC. Dr. Peter Harold is honorary consul of the Republic of Bulgaria in Lower Austria and Brigadier in the Austrian Army.

He is a trained banker and served in CEO functions in Austria and abroad during his last operative banking functions, now retired in these business areas. He serves as an advisor to the Chief of General Staff of the Austrian Army. Since 2018, he is President of the Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection, a founding institution of Blue Shield Austria and partner to the National Defence Academy in Vienna. In this function, he coordinates activities of the military cultural property protection officers and is Vice President of Blue Shield Austria.

# PROGRAMME DAY 1

08:30 to 09:30

## Arrival and check-in

09:30 to 10:30

Moderator: **Brigadier General Peter HAROLD**,  
President of the Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection

## Welcome Ceremony

- ▶ **Lieutenant General Erich CSITKOVITS**, Commandant of the National Defence Academy and Director Training of the Austrian Armed Forces
- ▶ **General Rudolf STRIEDINGER**,  
Chief of Defence Staff, Austrian Armed Forces
- ▶ **Arnold KAMMEL**, Secretary General and Defence Policy Director,  
Federal Ministry of Defence
- ▶ Brass Ensemble, military band of Lower Austria
- ▶ **Ernesto OTTONE RAMÍREZ**,  
UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture – *video message*
- ▶ **Kludia TANNER**,  
Federal Minister of Defence of Austria – *video message*
- ▶ Brass Ensemble, military band of Lower Austria

10:30 to 11:30

## Group photo & coffee break

11:30 to 13:30

## Session 1: The significance of cultural property for societies

**From Mnemosyne to Legacy – and back (Culture and Human Existence)**  
*Scientific-artistic performance*

- ▶ **Paul ERTL**, Head of the Department for Conduct and Cohesion of the Forces, National Defence Academy
- ▶ **Günther FLECK**, Clinical & Health Psychologist
- ▶ **Oswin SCHNEIDER**, Musician and Composer

**Tangible & Intangible Heritage: Pillars of Cultural Resilience and Continuity**

- ▶ **Karl HABSBURG-LOTHRINGEN**, President of Blue Shield Austria

**Lebanon's heritage destruction: The Wars on Conventions and History**  
*Video message*

- ▶ **Joanne FARCHAKH BAJJALY**,  
Archaeologist, Journalist and Founder of the Lebanese NGO "Biladi"

13:30 to 14:30

## Lunch break

14:30 to 16:00

## Session 2:

### The significance of cultural property for armed forces

**"A New Relational Ethics" for Heritage:**

**What Future for its Peacebuilding Potential?**

- ▶ **Dacia VIEJO-ROSE**, Associate Professor in Heritage and the Politics of the Past, Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge

**Cultural Property Protection – The Benefit for Soldiers**

- ▶ **Laurie RUSH**, United States Army Archaeologist and  
Cultural Resources Manager, Fort Drum

## Discussion

16:00 to 16:30

## Coffee break

16:30 to 18:30

## Impulse

**The Hague Convention and its Protocols at the Centre of the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict – Legal Obligations and Contemporary Challenges**

- ▶ **Astrid REISINGER CORACINI**, Lecturer at the Department of International Law and International Relations at the University of Vienna

**The Austrian Cultural Property Protection List and its digitalisation**

- ▶ **Christoph HÜTTERER**, Department for Digitalization and Knowledge Transfer, Federal Monuments Authority Austria

## Panel discussion

***Is the 1954 Hague Convention outdated in the 21st century?  
Recent developments in Cultural Property Protection***

**Moderator: Brigadier General Peter HAROLD**,  
President of the Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection

- ▶ **Anna SIDORENKO**, Head of Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties Unit, UNESCO Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention
- ▶ **Cameron WALTER**, Head of Heritage Crime Task Force and Customs Adviser, OSCE
- ▶ **Alfio GULLOTTA**, Policy Officer for Cultural Heritage at the European External Action Service (EEAS)
- ▶ **Dominik HORN**, Former Member of NATO Human Security
- ▶ **Astrid REISINGER CORACINI**, Legal expert

18:30 to 19:30

**Evening buffet**

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## SPEAKERS & ABSTRACTS

### SESSION 1 | THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL PROPERTY FOR SOCIETIES



#### Paul ERTL

Hofrat Dr. Paul G. Ertl served in the Austrian Armed Forces for 16 years and moved to the civilian sector of research, teaching and consulting at the National Defense Academy, Vienna in 2005. Currently he is heading the Department for Conduct and Cohesion of the Forces and is working on his habilitation at the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest. Until recently, he also headed the unit responsible for training cultural property protection officers in the Austrian Armed Forces.

In this role, he organized several national events and international conferences and on this topic. Also, he taught on cultural heritage topics at Danube University, Krems, Santa Clara University, California, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, and various other institutions. His latest publication in the field of CPP is: *The Role of Military Personnel in Cultural Property Protection in the Event of Armed Conflict* (Vienna, Lit, 2024 – forthcoming).

### **Abstract**

In the tradition of ancient Greek theater, two ancient Greek masks stand. A golden comedy mask represents the aspiration of man as a cultural being with the possibility of a radiant new world. In contrast, a silver tragedy mask represents the decline of cultural heritage and property, especially in the event of armed conflict. To show how culture and its destruction are anchored in human history and in the minds of people from the very beginning, a piece of music will be played at the beginning that was written especially for the 70th anniversary of the Hague Convention and addresses the necessity of culture as one of the fundamental foundations of humanity (*Man's Legacy*). After that, there will be a brief presentation of the anthropological foundations of CPP, its integration into the mythical world of peoples and the confrontation with violent power. This is followed by a video showing the struggle for supremacy between myth and violence in the human subject. Consequently, this introduces a presentation of how the impulse that leads to the destruction of cultural property is formed. How these impulses can be counteracted is finally addressed in the last song, which praises Mnemosyne, daughter of Gaea and Ouranos, who represents human memory (*Mnemosyne*).



### **Günther FLECK**

Dr. phil. Günther Fleck is a Clinical & Health Psychologist. 1986-2002: Aviation, Clinical & Health Psychologist at the Austrian Military Psychology Service.



2003-2017: Head of Department of Psychology and Educational Science of the Institute for Human and Social Sciences at the Austrian National Defence Academy. 2018: Retirement. Since 2002: Member of Science Commission at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence. 2022: Founder and Head of Cognitive Science Research Group of the Science, Commission at the Federal Ministry of Defence. Co-Founder (1998) and President (since 2020) of the Austrian Society of Organismic-Systemic Research and Theory.

## **Abstract**

The destruction of cultural property of an opponent or enemy has a very long meaning in the history of war. While many kings, tribal chiefs and dictators were satisfied with conquering a foreign country, others did everything in their power to rob the people of the subjugated country (kingdom, state) of their identity or to destroy it completely. In addition to the widespread practice of enslavement, this included, above all, the destruction of cultural symbols, today referred to as cultural assets. According to the rulers' doctrine, everything that reflects the identity of the subjugated people should be eradicated. The symbols that create identity can be either material or immaterial. From a historical perspective, material symbols include capitals, castles, sacred places, royal residences, monasteries, and centers of learning (prestigious schools and universities). Immaterial symbols include languages, dances, religious rituals, music, and literature. The deliberate destruction of these identity-forming symbols is intended to make the subjugated people forget who they are. The aim is to wipe their culture off the map. For this and other reasons, international law has placed identity-forming symbols under protection, which is now widely known as the protection of cultural property. This is still being massively violated worldwide. This lecture will show the psychological and physical effects that the intentional destruction of tangible and intangible cultural property has on the people affected. It will be argued that this is a form of psychological warfare that is deeply inhumane and must therefore be condemned in the strongest possible terms. From the point of view of international law, it is a form of illegitimate psychological warfare.



## **Karl HABSBURG-LOTHRINGEN**

Karl Habsburg-Lothringen is an international media entrepreneur, president of the Austrian National Committee Blue Shield and founding president of Blue Shield International. He has repeatedly led international missions, e.g. to Egypt, Libya or Mali, to document the destruction and looting of cultural property. His commitment particularly promoted the collaboration between military and civilian personnel and the cooperation of various international organizations for the protection of cultural heritage, such as the Blue Shield, UNIFIL and LAF in Lebanon in 2019, and the Blue Shield cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2020.

### **Abstract**

Cultural property is often associated with physical artefacts and monuments, but intangible heritage – such as oral traditions, rituals, and social practices – plays a crucial role in protecting and maintaining these tangible elements. This presentation explores the relationship between tangible cultural property and intangible heritage, drawing on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its connection to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. While the Hague Convention addresses the protection of cultural property in times of conflict, the UNESCO Convention highlights the importance of safeguarding intangible heritage, which gives life and context to these physical assets. Intangible heritage not only enhances the significance of cultural property but also fosters community engagement, ensuring the continuity of cultural practices that contribute to the preservation of tangible heritage. By integrating both conventions, this presentation advocates for a comprehensive approach to cultural property protection—one that views the safeguarding of intangible heritage as essential to the long-term protection of tangible cultural property, especially in times of crisis.



## **Joanne FARCHAKH BAJJALY**

Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly is an archaeologist and journalist who worked from 1998 till 2013 in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq documenting the discovery and destruction of heritage in the Middle East. In 2005, she founded Biladi, an NGO dedicated to the promotion and safeguarding of heritage through training for professionals and educational activities for young children and adults.

A project that has won the Ashoka Arab world fellowship in 2007.

In 2011, Biladi started running funded projects (E.U, UNICEF, WFP, UNESCO...) aiming at promoting and safeguarding heritage as part of an educational activity or as income generation activity for the communities in rural areas having a total reach-out of 7000 beneficiaries.

In 2017, Biladi and the working group for illicit trafficking of antiquities in Blue Shield International elaborated and conducted ESTERDAD training program for 120 heritage professionals from Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

The explosion of port of Beirut in August 2020 was the turning point for Joanne to put the effort on Jouhouzia – “protecting heritage in times of crisis”. It is a training program aiming at creating multidisciplinary teams of army officers, firemen, heritage professionals, etc. trained in heritage rescue operations. Participants are asked to design and implement rescue plans, including consolidation, evacuation of works of art and manuscripts, and combat illicit trafficking of antiquities. Jouhouzia was awarded the mentorship program by the Paris Peace Forum for 2023 and is Biladi is the partner for the Levant for the Cultural Emergency Response - CER HUB network.

## SESSION 2 | THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL PROPERTY FOR ARMED FORCES



**Dacia VIEJO ROSE**

Dr. Dacia Viejo Rose is Associate Professor in Heritage and the Politics of the Past, Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, and director of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre. Her research focuses on the role of heritage in society, exploring how it can be a vector for violence and for informing perceptions of insecurity. She first became interested in the role of heritage in peacebuilding while working briefly at UNESCO observing its projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She subsequently researched the destruction and reconstruction of heritage in Spain during the civil war, dictatorship, and transition to democracy. Recently she has been working on reparations for heritage destruction and heritage interpretation in relation to notions of polysemy and repair. Her books include *Reconstructing Spain: Cultural Heritage and Memory after Civil War* (SAP, 2013) and the coedited volumes *War and Cultural Heritage* (CUP, 2015) and *Memorials in the Aftermath of War* (Palgrave, 2019).

### **Abstract**

Seventy years on from the Hague Convention, the state of this heritage appears to be in dire straits, facing onslaughts from a multi-headed hydra that has seen the destruction of heritage-scapes and lifeways around the world. Yet all around us, even as it appears to be increasingly under threat, heritage is emerging as a key element in identity politics, used to justify as often as to denounce violence. With critical heritage scholars arguing that heritage is a process of meaning-making with constantly evolving associative values that make it highly political, we have to understand what the implications of this understanding might be for the role of heritage in peacebuilding.

Accepting the political dimensions intrinsic to heritage is essential if we are to shed light on the relationship between cultural heritage and violence, but to do so demands an analysis of the complex underlying motivations for destruction and, consequentially, the diverse forms of repair that might best respond to it. The challenge of how to repair the harm caused by cultural violence was further accentuated by the 2020 Sarr-Savoir report on the restitution of African heritage that called for a “new relational ethics”. Too often, the targeted destruction of cultural heritage has been treated as a collection of dramatic events rather than as part of a continuum of structural and symbolic violence. As a result, responses have often fallen short of repairing relations and the harm caused. Drawing on various examples, and the work on the reparations done by different courts and governments, in this presentation I argue that we need to consider new modalities of interpretation and repair if heritage is to serve peacebuilding aims.



**Laurie RUSH**

Dr. Rush is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. Her research specialty is Native Americans of the Great Lakes, and she is an Army Archaeologist who serves in support of the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum. In 2006, she initiated an international program to educate deploying military personnel about heritage in the deployed environment participating in key leader engagements and analysing cultural property lessons learned.

Dr. Rush served as an advisor to NATO and faculty for UN educational programming. She is internationally recognized as a specialist concerning the importance of military education, intelligence, and operations planning for cultural property protection. Dr. Rush is a Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution, a University of Pennsylvania Consulting Scholar, and Secretary of the US Committee of the Blue Shield.

## **Abstract**

Effective partnerships with heritage professionals support mission success by offering imagery analysis expertise; contributions to non-lethal target listing; pre-deployment preparation for “reading” cross cultural landscapes; and assistance with identification of experts and key allies at the local community level. When consideration for heritage is incorporated into planning not just for conflict zones but also for disaster response, the soldiers have confidence and superior preparation derived from greater familiarity with the area of operations. Incorporation of training and education with a focus on cultural property prevents inadvertent destruction and decreases collateral damage helping to keep local communities as intact as possible. Understanding the seasonal round of ceremonies and celebrations also contributes to effective operations with minimal disruptions on all sides. In essence, incorporation of heritage considerations makes for prepared soldiers with increased chances for success. As we think about our soldiers in a post mission environment, they also need to know their effort, sacrifice and commitment led to recovery in the form of return to civil society and the possibility for lasting peace.

## **IMPULSE**

### **Astrid REISINGER CORACINI**



Dr. Astrid Reisinger Coracini is an international law scholar and adjunct lecturer at the University of Vienna. Her research focuses on the use of force, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law.

She has contributed to the negotiations of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression and has served as a member of the Austrian delegations to the Assembly of States Parties of

the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

On the national level, she has frequently advised on the implementation of international law and on cases involving serious human rights violations.

## **Abstract**

Seventy years ago, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict forewarned: “Cultural property has suffered grave damage during recent armed conflicts and... by reason of the developments in the technique of warfare, it is in increasing danger of destruction.” This statement is more relevant than ever today, as cultural heritage worldwide faces growing threats—not only from advancements in military technology but also from deliberate strategies aimed at erasing cultural identities and undermining the resilience of communities.

Over the past decades, the international legal framework for protecting cultural property during armed conflicts has steadily evolved. This progress is reflected not only in the adoption of the Second Protocol in 1999 but also in the jurisprudence of international criminal tribunals, enforcement measures adopted by the United Nations Security Council, and the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights.

The Hague Convention and its two Protocols remain central to this evolving field. This presentation will offer an overview of the comprehensive obligations set forth in these instruments, covering safeguarding measures in times of peace, the protection of cultural property during armed conflict, and duties arising in post-conflict situations. Given the ongoing destruction of cultural property in modern conflicts, the presentation will also address challenges within the legal framework and obstacles to its effective implementation.

## **Christoph HÜTTERER**

Christoph Hütterer works for the Federal Monuments Authority Austria in the Department for Digitalization and Knowledge Transfer.

Since 2008, he is in charge for the matters of the 1954/1999 Hague Convention. Six-week intensive Training in the ICCROM-Institute in Rome. In 2009 amendment of the Cultural Heritage Decree. Involved in the process, in charge for the listing of the chosen monuments and accompanied the registration procedure. Together with the legal department of the Federal Monuments Authority he is the contact point to national, international, governmental and not governmental institution in matters of Hague Convention and Cultural Protection in Austria. Recent project: Digital implementation of the Hague Convention areas in the HERIS database (**H**eritage **I**nformation **S**ystem).

### **Abstract**

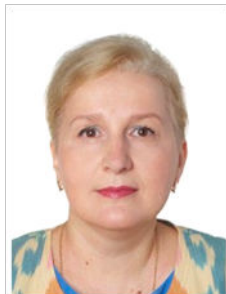
Austria signed the Hague Convention in 1954 and ratified it in 1964. Under the impression of the “Cold War” a special department was established in the Federal Monuments Authority (FMA) and the well-known enamel shields were given to the owners of the selected Monuments/the mayors of the “centres containing monuments” to identify selected Cultural Property.

The 1999 amendment of the monument protection act – (Denkmalschutzgesetz) originally from 1923 – dealt with the Hague Convention (§ 13) and prepared further legal steps to be taken by decree. In 2009, this decree (Kulturgüterschutzverordnung) passed legislation. In 2013, 136 Hague-Convention-Objects were published on the homepage of the Monuments Authority. In 2020 a new database HERIS (Heritage Information System) was introduced to administrate of the immovable heritage in Austria. This provided the possibility to use the new mapping-feature of the database to improve the original plans. 2024 the extension of all 136 immovable Hague-Convention-Objects is therefore defined in a more precise way.



## PANEL DISCUSSION

### Anna SIDORENKO



Dr. Anna Sidorenko is Head of Cultural Heritage Protection Treaties Unit, the Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Properties in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols at UNESCO, appointed in 2020. She began her career at UNESCO in 2000 and held various positions at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Additionally, she is Research Associate of the France's National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (CNAM). She is a graduate of France's Ecole de Chaillot, and holds a Ph.D. in Human Sciences and New Humanities, a Master's degree in Sciences of Religions and Societies, a Certificate in international negotiations from the France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

### Abstract

During my keynote speech for the panel on recent developments in the protection of cultural property, I will delve on the recent developments on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols under the mandate of UNESCO. These developments notably include the adoption in December 2023, by the Meeting of Parties to the Second Protocol of new monitoring and supervision mechanisms, including Principles relating to the use of remote sensing data for the monitoring of cultural property. These principles will then offer an opportunity to discuss on the use of cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence for the safeguarding of cultural property and the training of military personnel. My speech will conclude with the presentation of the three UNESCO initiatives announced within the framework of celebration of the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Convention at the UNESCO international conference in The Hague, and notably the establishment of the UNESCO Civil-military alliance for the protection of cultural property.

The panel discussion could then discuss on the implementation of these monitoring and supervision mechanisms, as well as on the implementation of the new UNESCO initiatives launched this year at The Hague.



### **Cameron WALTER**

Cameron Walter is the Head of the OSCE Heritage Crime Task Force since 2020. He was a member of the initial OSCE pilot project expert roster for combatting trafficking of cultural heritage since 2017.

Since joining permanently, the Task Force has coordinated operations, intelligence and capacity building with 43 of the 57 OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation, the Heritage Crime Task Force is the only team of its kind in the world, bringing together police, customs, border guards, forensic, financial and cyber investigators, museums, ministries of culture and state prosecutors to assist participating States as a rapid response team, and to deliver the world's first simulation-based scenario training on heritage crime investigations.

He began his career with Canada Border Services Agency in 2007 as lead on International Relations for Europe, Africa and Middle East, focused on supply chain security, counter-terrorism, customs intelligence and trade facilitation. He also participated in numerous operations with World Customs Organization targeting heritage trafficking networks.

He transferred in 2017 to Department of Canadian Heritage as Deputy Director of International Partnerships, where he coordinated efforts to expand Canada's global creative industries trade while also building international partnerships to combat trafficking of cultural property.

## Abstract

The Presentation entitled THE OSCE HERITAGE CRIME TASK FORCE – GLOBAL BORDER MANAGEMENT & LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAFFICKING focuses on the critical intersection of law enforcement, customs, border security and museums cooperation in the global fight against heritage trafficking, and its direct linkages to organized crime and terrorism financing, money laundering and corruption networks. Through the OSCE's Heritage Crime Task Force operational efforts are being coordinated in real-time across Europe and North America to bolster law enforcement capacity, map and target trafficking networks, assist countries in heritage crime investigations and, since 2022, actively assist Ukraine in combatting looting and trafficking of its cultural heritage. Discussion topics: The need for cross-agency, cross-border coordination and the success of Walter's team to date including seizures, repatriations, prosecution and assisting Ukraine in building cases for the International Criminal Court focused on contraventions of the 1954 Hague Convention.



### **Alfio GULLOTTA**

Lt. Col. Alfio Gullotta of the Italian Carabinieri, currently seconded as Policy Officer for Cultural Heritage at the European External Action Service (EEAS). A law graduate from the University of Rome, he joined the Carabinieri in 1999 and commanded multiple units involved in peacekeeping and anti-criminal operations. His international service includes Iraq, Afghanistan, and the UK. From 2016-2022, he held leadership roles within the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (CC TPC), overseeing training in Italy and abroad and investigations in central and southern Italy. He also worked as an Expeditionary Training Expert on CPP in Baghdad and contributed to EU civilian mission training standardization. Gullotta was part of the "Caschi Blu della Cultura" Task Force and led the EU-funded ISF OPFA-CULT project (dedicate

to support Cultural Property Crime investigations). He is now focused on the implementation of the Concept on CH in Conflict and Crisis of the EU, thus integrating Cultural Heritage in conflict and crisis scenarios within EU External Action.

### **Abstract**

This intervention will present the existing Training on Cultural Heritage Protection (CHP) within the EU's civilian training framework, with a focus on the need for its update and enhancement. Starting with an overview of the EU's concept of Cultural Heritage (CH) and its significance, the presentation will emphasize why CHP training is crucial for both civilian and military personnel. The TRA will be discussed, outlining the process to create it, its current structure, the types of training it includes. The intervention will also highlight the lessons learned from its implementation, identifying gaps that require attention in order to adapt to evolving operational environments. Finally, a way forward will be proposed, outlining the necessary updates to the TRA and future training initiatives aimed at improving the EU's capacity to protect cultural heritage, enhance collaboration between civil and military actors, and foster a more holistic approach to cultural heritage protection in conflict zones.

### **Dominik HORN**



Dominik Horn studied political science, Portuguese, Spanish, and postgraduate study of Latin American studies. Since 1994, he is in the Federal Ministry of Defence in functions in the field of international training, mission planning and mission command. Completed operations and missions in Kosovo (2006), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012) and Mali (2021/2022). He also completed a foreign assignment with NATO (2017 - 2021) responsible for Protection of Civilians and is currently in the Military Committee of the European Union as Military Advisor to the Chairman (2022 - 2025).

## **Abstract**

NATO recognizes Cultural Property Protection (CPP) as an essential consideration in the military environment and a critical indicator of community security, cohesion, and identity. As demonstrated by the conflicts in the Western Balkans in the 1990s or the 2004 Kosovo riots, the destruction of cultural symbols can have significant political dimensions and become a tactic used to weaken affected communities. Recognizing the linkage between CPP and the Protection of Civilians (PoC). CPP is an important topic of NATO's Human Security approach to operations and missions and a valuable component of NATO's efforts to build peace and security. In terms of the legal basis, the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols provides the core regulatory instrument on CPP for NATO. To ensure that the Alliance meets these intents and obligations in its operations and missions, NATO has incorporated CPP into policy and doctrine. The 2016 NATO Policy for PoC clearly states that PoC in NATO-led operations and missions can include the protection of not only persons but also objects and services. The 2017 Report of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Project undertaken by the Nordic Centre for Cultural Heritage & Armed Conflict, Best Practices for Cultural Property Protection in NATO-led Military Operations, examined the role of cultural property in the 21st century. NATO's work on CPP to date, lessons identified from NATO-led and other military operations, and provided a set of recommendations for NATO's consideration. In 2019, a Bi-Strategic Command Directive on CPP in NATO operations and missions was released, outlining the legal principles, roles and responsibilities in relation to CPP at NATO, including on information sharing, reporting and training. The NATO-accredited Civil-Military Cooperation Centre of Excellence in The Hague has developed training on the concept of CPP and on its applicability in operational contexts. At the Madrid Summit 2022, the NATO Human Security Approach and Guiding Principles were endorsed and covering CPP.

## PROGRAMME DAY 2

09:00 to 11:00

**Moderator: Raffaella WOLLER**, Center for Cultural Property Protection, University for Continuing Education Krems

### **Session 3: The implementation of cultural property protection within armed forces and during armed conflict – education, training, requirements, lessons learned**

#### **Cultural Heritage Protection (and its training) in the EU**

- ▶ **Alfio GULLOTTA**, Policy Officer for Cultural Heritage at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

#### **Cultural Heritage Crime in Wartime and Beyond**

- ▶ **Manfred PINNEGGER**, Security/Risk Manager for Cultural Institutions, Austrian Contingent Commander in the EUAM Ukraine Mission

#### **Learning to Adapt:**

#### **Recent Blue Shield Experiences across the Range of Military Operations**

- ▶ **Michael DELACRUZ**,  
Director of Operations of Blue Shield International (BSI)

#### **Cultural Property Protection in the Austrian Armed Forces – on a strategic, tactical and field level**

- ▶ **Jürgen JÄGER**, Deputy Head of Operations Division, Directorate 1
- ▶ **Hermann LEITZINGER**, Civil-military Cooperations (CIMIC) Officer in the CIMIC Unit of the Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT)
- ▶ **Josef EITLER**, Archaeologist and  
Austrian Liaison Officer Military Cultural Property Protection

11:00 to 11:30

### **Coffee break**

11:30 to 13:00

### **Session 4: Training incentives in different armed forces and CPP-exercises in the area of civil-military cooperation**

- ▶ **Captain Ankie PETERSEN**,  
Liaison Officer on Cultural Property Protection in the Royal Dutch Armed Forces
- ▶ **Second-Lieutenant Maria REINSTEIN**,  
Civil-military Cooperations (CIMIC) Officer in the Estonian Defence Forces Headquarter
- ▶ **Captain Timothy FAGG**,  
Head of Projects at Portsmouth Historic Quarter
- ▶ **Anna KAISER**,  
Head of the Center for Cultural Property Protection at the University for Continuing Education Krems

#### **Discussion**

13:00 to 14:00

### **Lunch break**

14:00 to 16:00

### Panel discussion

#### ***Cultural Property Protection within armed forces and during armed conflict – challenges & opportunities***

**Moderator: Anna KAISER**, Center for Cultural Property Protection, University for Continuing Education Krems

- ▶ **Brigadier General Youssef HAYDAR**,  
Commander of the Independent Works Regiment of the  
Lebanese Armed Forces
- ▶ **Lieutenant Colonel Giuseppe MARSEGLIA**,  
Officer Group Commander of Carabinieri for Cultural Heritage Protection  
North-Central Italy, Monza
- ▶ **Captain Timothy LE BERRE**,  
Curator of the French Foreign Legion Museum and French Army  
Representative for Cultural Property Protection Development
- ▶ **Laurie RUSH**, United States Army Archaeologist and  
Cultural Resources Manager, Fort Drum
- ▶ **Colonel Saliou NGOM**,  
Senegalese Armed Forces, Director of Archives and Historical Heritage

16:00 to 17:00

### Cold appetizer

17:30 to 19:00

#### ***Optional programme:***

#### ***Visit to the Museum of Military History, Vienna***

17:00 Shuttle from National Defence Academy to venue

19:00 Shuttle from venue to accommodation

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### **Moderator: Raffaella WOLLER**

Raffaella Woller, MA, studied Classical Archaeology at the University of Vienna and Mathematics at the Vienna University of Technology. From 2009 to 2017 she was involved in various research projects in the field of Classical Archaeology and did an internship in research management at the National Defence Academy from 2018 to 2019.

Since 2019 she has been working as a member of the academic staff and the management team at the Center for Cultural Property Protection of the University for Continuing Education Krems. In this function she has been involved in several EU projects focusing on cultural property protection, risk management and different threats for cultural heritage, i.e. in times of climate change, as well as the sustainable valorisation of cultural and natural heritage on local, regional and transnational level, and she co-organized and supported trainings for cultural operators.

## SESSION 3 | THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION WITHIN ARMED FORCES AND DURING ARMED CONFLICT – EDUCATION, TRAINING, REQUIREMENTS, LESSONS LEARNED



**Manfred PINNEGGER**

Manfred Pinnegger, B.Sc. M.A., has more than 30 years of experience in the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) in the areas of operational special police units, combating serious organised financial, economic and corruption crime, Interpol investigations and the fight against international organised cybercrime.

During his career he participated in international missions including the UNMIK mission in Kosovo (2001), one Interpol mission in Bolivia (2006), the EUPM mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2007) and between 2021 and 2023 he served as the Contingent Commander of the Austrian police contingent within the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine. There he was a member of the EUAM Ukraine National State Security Unit, where he was inter alia also responsible to support the Security Service of Ukraine in its tasks to protect Ukraine's Cultural Heritage and national identity.

Pinnegger is a member of the Committee for Security and Risk Management at the Austrian Standards Institute since 2013.

He is the CEO of the INSIRIMA GmbH which provides business consulting in the field of security- & risk management for museums and cultural institutions.

Since the beginning of 2024, he moved to the Austrian Federal Police Academy (SIAM) where he became the Austrian point of contact for the Interpol Global Academy Network.



## **Abstract**

From October 2023 until end of Juli 2024, I served as the Austrian contingent commander in the EUAM Ukraine Mission. The presentation gives a brief overview how the topic of cultural heritage protection for the first time was introduced to the EUAM Mission in Ukraine. It shows a best-practice example how the EUAM Ukraine National State Security Unit managed to raise the awareness of Ukrainian high-level decision makers to engage in the fight against severe organised crime and war crimes against Ukrainian cultural heritage.



### **Michael DELACRUZ**

Dr. Michael Delacruz is the current Director of Operations of Blue Shield International (BSI) supporting the President and the Board of the Blue Shield in defining organizational strategy, developing operational plans, and directing and implementing operational programmes on behalf of the international Secretariat and the Blue Shield Movement.

He is a visual arts researcher and classical archaeologist with active archaeological research projects on the transmission of religious cult in the Saronic Gulf from the Early Iron Age to the end of the Peloponnesian War. Prior to pursuing his PhD at University College London, in Fine Art and Classical Reception, and MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology from the University of Oxford, Lt Col Delacruz (USAR) served for several years as a US Army and US Marine Corps officer, assigned to special operations, civil affairs, and defense intelligence units throughout Europe and the Middle East. He subsequently held civilian appointments as a policy advisor with the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington D.C. and as the Head of Security Cooperation for the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has most recently served on active duty as the

Assistant Chief of Staff, G5 (Plans) for the Tactical Expeditionary Headquarters, 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne).

As a reserve officer he is currently developing capabilities in Cultural Heritage Preservation within the U.S. Army, leading the new generation of Army Monuments Officers into the 21st century. In this role he represents the US Army on the interagency Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee and maintains close partnerships with heritage organisations such as the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative and foreign military cultural protection units.

### **Abstract**

This presentation will describe the activities of Blue Shield International (BSI) to support implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention across the Spectrum of Conflict and the Range of Military Operations. Against this conceptual framework to describe the diverse operational environments encompassed by armed conflicts of varied intensity, activities explored will include advisory support on matters related to conflict-related cultural heritage protection to the United Nations, NATO, OSCE and other multilateral and bilateral security organisations, and as a consultative member of the UNESCO Hague 54 Committee; safeguarding and protection activities supported and administered through the network of over thirty (35) Blue Shield National Committees (NCs) in the conflict-affected states of Georgia (Blue Shield Georgia) and Lebanon (Blue Shield Lebanon); and direct interventions by the international Secretariat in conflict/conflict-affected environments in Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine. Efforts to address issues of post-conflict accountability and implementation of reconstitutive justice (such as remote and field site assessment and documentation to support investigative efforts related to deliberate heritage damage and destruction of Christian communities by ISIS from 2014-2019) will also be discussed, as will engagement with non-state actors in the protection of cultural heritage in conflict affected environments (e.g. Northern Syria, Sudan).

## **Jürgen JÄGER**

Colonel Jäger attended the Austrian Military Academy from 2000 to 2004. He served until 2010 in several commanding and staff functions in the Austrian Armed Forces.

2010 he was to attend the 19th Command and General Staff Course at the National Defence Academy in Vienna.

2013 he promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in General Staff and consequently served in several assignments at the Joint Forces Command and at the Ministry of Defence.

2020 to 2021 he commanded the Joint Logistic Support Group of NATO Force KFOR and the 43rd Austrian contingent in KOSOVO.

Since 2023 he is assigned to Deputy Head of Operations Division, Directorate 1 – Operations.

### **Abstract**

CPP within the Operations Division in Directorate 1 – Operations and into the Austrian Armed Forces. CPP input and products during the operations assessment. Civil Military Collaboration by the CPP liaison officers to the regional commands and the implementation in the reserve structure.

## **Hermann LEITZINGER**

Graduated at the Military Academy 1997, Artillery and Reconnaissance Officer, since 2008 CIMIC Officer in the CIMIC Unit GRAZ of the AUTINT. Several missions in EUFOR and KFOR as Platoon leader, Coy Commander and three times as CIMIC Officer in the field. Attendance of several NATO CIMIC Courses concerning Cross Cutting Topics incl. CPP. Experience in CPP since attendance of the military cultural protection course at the National Defence Academy 2023. Practical experience in EUFOR and KFOR in the field of cultural awareness for mission preparation of the contingents since 2008. CPP during the Schutzschild24 as CIMIC Officer 7.InfBDE including CPP-Functional Specialists from the territorial command Province of Styria.

## **Abstract**

CPP in practice on BDE-level, contribution to the civil situation picture and deductions and conclusions on tactical level. Implications for PSYOPS and InfoOps to CPP. Mission experience EUFOR and KFOR, cultural awareness in order to respect intangible cultural heritage and overview of important facilities and buildings of cultural heritage.



### **Josef EITLER**

Josef Eitler is an archaeologist specializing in Roman archaeology and late antiquity. He is currently leading a research project funded by the FWF, the Austrian Science Fund, on the development of the Roman city of Teurnia in the area of today's municipality of Lendorf near Spittal an der Drau/Carinthia.

At the same time, he is a liaison officer for cultural property protection as a reserve officer in the Austrian Armed Forces. Here he contributes his expertise to individual questions, training and advanced training courses as well as exercises.

## **Abstract**

The lecture will provide a brief overview of the structural organization and integration of CPP in the Austrian Armed Forces. The function of the liaison officers CPP in the territorial military commands will be addressed. These are reserve officers who bring both civilian expertise and a broad network of contacts to this role.

We will also have a short look at the Austrian training of liaison officers CPP, which includes regular further training after a basic course.

In addition, it will be shown that it is an advantage to include the area of cultural property protection in larger military exercises in order to create a general understanding of its necessity.

## SESSION 4 | TRAINING INCENTIVES IN DIFFERENT ARMED FORCES AND CPP-EXERCISES IN THE AREA OF CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

### **Ankie PETERSEN**

Ankie Petersen works as a Liaison Officer on Cultural Property Protection (CPP) in the Royal Dutch Armed Forces. She leads and coordinates efforts to implement CPP within the Dutch Armed Forces, including designing training programs and tools for the military, projects for the implementation of CPP in military planning processes, and engaging in civil-military collaboration projects for the advancement of CPP on both a national and international stage.

As a civilian, Petersen is an expert advisor on cultural heritage protection for the international Atrocities Crime Advisory Group, focusing on cultural heritage war crimes in Ukraine, and a UNESCO consultant. She co-founded Holy Houses Rotterdam, a city-wide festival involving religious communities and a diverse range of houses of worship. The festival runs annually in over 45 locations throughout the city. Petersen has an academic background in critical heritage studies, with an MA in Heritage Studies, an MA in Design Cultures from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and a BA in Language- and Culture Studies from Utrecht University. For her efforts in the Dutch cultural heritage field, she was awarded the 2021 Monument Talent Prize by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, a national prize for young professionals in the sector.

### **Abstract**

The Netherlands has a long history of military capacity on CPP, from 1953 onwards. Since then, this CPP unit, now known as the Section Cultural Affairs van Information (CAI) has changed significantly in their setup and tasks, while trying to adapt to a changing world and correspond to contemporary challenges in international security. As a specialized department, part of the 1 Civil and Military Interaction Command and the Communication & Engagement Corps, the Section CAI

is in charge of developing briefings, specialized trainings and contribute to military exercises with their expertise in topics in the field of cultural awareness and cultural heritage protection. In this presentation, the experiences of Section CAI in the latest international CIMIC and PsyOps exercises will be shared, with dos and don'ts with regard to preparation, scripting, role-play and evaluation. How can we adapt our exercises to include the most recent challenges with regard to cultural heritage, that can range from deliberate destruction to historical appropriation and propaganda? And do these new challenges redefine what we have traditionally considered as 'CPP'?

### **Maria REINSTEIN**

Maria Reinstein has completed a Bachelor's at the London School of Economics in International Social and Public Policy and a Master's degree in War Studies at King's College London. For the past two years, she has served as the CIMIC officer in the Estonian Defence Forces HQ, during this time her section has increased cooperation with government agencies and the Estonian Ministry of Culture in an effort to better understand and coordinate Cultural Property Protection.

### **Abstract**

Awareness regarding Cultural Property Protection in Estonia is still in its infancy; however, much progress has occurred in the past years. The presentation focuses on concrete actions that have been taken in the past years to implement CPP within the Estonian Defence Forces, increase cooperation with relevant authorities and conduct training for CIMIC teams. It will also focus on national particularities and challenges that have been encountered throughout the implementation of CPP.

### **Timothy FAGG**

Tim started his academic career in 2014 completing a BEng (Hons) in Civil Engineering and Surveying. Followed by a post graduate MSc in Historic Building Conservation in 2015. His professional career commenced in 2016 with English Heritage where Tim worked as a

project manager delivering conservation, repair and infrastructure schemes to the UK's state owned/managed historic estate. Now working for Portsmouth Historic Quarter as head of projects, responsible for the buildings within the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth Naval Base. His civilian experience in CPPU has come from attending and observing a number of desk top and large emergency evacuation exercises, undertaken at historic properties with emergency services. Alongside implementing measures to ensure the protection of cultural heritage during project delivery.

### **Abstract**

UK's CPPU presentation will cover a number of key areas, considering challenges and opportunities faced when implementing CPP within a military setting. Key Areas:

- Implementation and organisation of the UK's Cultural Property Protection Unit (CPPU).
- Development of the CPPU's capability.
- Current activities; supporting operations, exercises, working with and training others.
- Challenges faced.



### **Anna KAISER – Abstract**

Cooperation is central for successful protection of cultural heritage, be it from so-called natural or man-made disasters or armed conflict. To best protect cultural heritage and to get ready for calamitous events, it is necessary to prepare – not only emergency plans, but also cooperation and collaboration and to build interfaces before catastrophes strike. The presentation builds on years of experience in bringing together heritage side and military in order to enable cultural heritage specialists to successfully cooperate with emergency responders. It highlights possibilities in education and training, based on a series of European Union funded cultural heritage protection projects.

## PANEL DISCUSSION



**Youssef HAYDAR**

General Haydar's military career began at the Military Academy, where he graduated as an infantry platoon leader with a bachelor's degree in military sciences in April 1994. Over the years, he has served in various army units before assuming his current position as Commander of the Independent Works Regiment in September 2019. General Haydar's dedication to CPP has led to the creation of a state-of-the-art training facility, a simulation room, a simulation area, a mobile team equipped with dedicated CPP vehicles, as well as a restoration training facility, enhancing the LAF's capabilities in cultural property protection. His Regiment's organizational structure was updated to officially incorporate the CPPER and the course material as part of the regiment's core missions and Cultural Property Protection was incorporated into the regiment's mission statement.

### **Abstract**

The presentation highlights the evolution of the Independent Works Regiment (IWR) since 2020, with a specific focus on its role in Cultural Properties Protection (CPP). The regiment's organization has been restructured to integrate CPP capabilities into its core mission, aligning with its broader commitment to safeguarding national heritage during times of crisis. The mission of the regiment emphasizes the preservation of cultural assets, particularly in emergency situations, while its vision is to be a leader in cultural protection within military operations, ensuring that heritage sites remain intact for future generations.

A key initiative within this transformation is the “Jouhouzia training program”, developed in partnership with the NGO Biladi NGO, which has been instrumental in building the expertise of IWR personnel in cultural properties protection. This program serves as a cornerstone in the



regiment's strategy to enhance its response capabilities by educating soldiers and officers on identifying, securing, and protecting cultural sites during armed conflicts or natural disasters.

In 2022, the regiment established the “Cultural Properties Protection and Emergency Response (CPPER) training facility”, which has become a hub for advanced training. The facility equips military personnel with practical skills and theoretical knowledge on cultural preservation, fostering collaborations with various allied armed forces that share a commitment to cultural heritage protection.

The regiment has also carried out significant missions dedicated to the protection of cultural properties in real-world emergencies. These operations demonstrate the unit's readiness and capability to safeguard heritage sites, even under challenging conditions, reinforcing the IWR's role as a vital player in global efforts to protect cultural heritage during crises.

### **Guiseppe MARSEGLIA**



Present: Officer Group Commander of Carabinieri for Cultural Heritage Protection North-Central Italy, in Monza.

1994 – Bachelor's Degree in Literature with first degree honour (110/110), awarded at the University of Padua (Thesis in Medieval History and Latin Paleography)

2002 – Bachelor's Degree in Conservation of Cultural Heritage with first degree honour (110/110), awarded at the University of Tuscia in Viterbo (Thesis in Museology and History of Collecting)

2013 – Master's Degree in Archaeological Heritage, achieved at the School of Archeology of Syracuse - University of Catania, with first degree honour 70 \ 70.

Government expert at the Ministry of Culture of the Coalition Main activities and responsibilities - Provisional Government in Iraq.

2001 – 2016 – Commander Officer of regional units of Carabinieri TPC (Cultural Heritage Protection) in Torino (as Lt.), Palermo (as Cap.), Venice (as Maj.)

Italy's INTERPOL referent for the recovery of artwork and archeology stolen finds in Iraq ITTF (Interpol Tracking Task Force).

Expert member in international activities by UNESCO and EU in Jordan, Libya, Israel, Palestine, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, Perù, North

### **Abstract**

The presentation will focus on two particular topics, pertinent to the theme of session: the creation in Italy of the Task Force "Blue Helmets of Culture", and a brief reference to Carabinieri TPC first activities in Iraq, in 2003, for the protection of the cultural heritage of that country. Carabinieri are the living witnesses of an Italian record.

Italy was in fact the first country in the world, since 1969, to equip itself with a specialized military police force dedicated to the Protection of Cultural Heritage, through all the typical, preventive and repressive activities, to combat the criminal phenomena that attack the cultural heritage, and this by transposing the 1970 UNESCO directive one year in advance, which called on member states to do so.

The Carabinieri Cultural Heritage Protection Command (TPC), in 55 years of history has accumulated a unique operational technical background second to none in the world, and it is constant intent to make it always available and shareable to all countries that request it, in the name of a complete and fruitful collaboration.



## **Timothée LE BERRE**

Captain Timothée Le Berre holds a master's degree in art history and heritage conservation from the École du Louvre, and a master's degree in military history from the University of Heidelberg.

A curator and military historian, Le Berre worked at the German Army Museum in Dresden after graduating, and joined the French army in 2013. He commanded a platoon as fire officer in the artillery at the 1er Artillery Regiment between 2015 and 2019. He took part in several overseas operational deployments, including Djibouti, Senegal and Mali.

Between 2019 and 2023, Le Berre held the position of deputy director at the army's heritage office in Paris, where he developed the implementation of military protection of cultural property and led numerous deployments in the field. Since August 2023 he is appointed as curator of the Foreign Legion Museum and French Army representative for Cultural Property Protection development.

### **Abstract**

In France, the military has been protecting cultural property in peacetime and wartime for over 100 years. The two world wars, as well as the most recent engagements, have enabled to build up a unique capacity of military personnel dedicated to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

Today, this unique capacity is articulated between anticipation and training, intervention and adaptation to new technologies. Put into perspective, it also enables us to propose ways of improving civil-military collaborations, both nationally and internationally.

## PROGRAMME DAY 3

09:00 to 10:30

Moderator: Paul ERTL, National Defence Academy

### Session 5:

#### International measures against cultural heritage exploitation

##### INTERPOL's combating of illicit trafficking in Cultural Property

- ▶ **Tiziano COIRO**,  
Coordinator of the Works of Art Unit in the General Secretariat of INTERPOL

##### West African Cultural Heritage in the effect of political-ideological issues

- ▶ **Hamady GAYE**,  
Head of the department for the preservation and conservation of collections at the central library of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal

#### Discussion

10:30 to 11:00

#### Coffee break

11:00 to 12:00

#### Panel discussion

##### *Future perspectives in Cultural Property Protection – Artificial Intelligence & New Technologies*

Moderator: **Anna PUHR**, Austrian National Defence Academy, Deputy Secretary General of Blue Shield Austria

- ▶ **Michelle DE GRUCHY**,  
Lead Analyst for cultural heritage and archaeology at the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)
- ▶ **Damian KOROPECKYJ**,  
Director of Operations for the CURIA Lab Conflict Observatory project
- ▶ **Timotheus SCHLESS**,  
Adviser and Developer for the Whiteflag Foundation, Signals Officer in the Royal Netherlands Air Force

12:00 to 13:00

#### Closing Ceremony

- ▶ **Nicole GRUBER**, Researcher and Lecturer for Cultural Property Protection at the Austrian National Defence Academy
- ▶ **Anna SIDORENKO**, UNESCO Secretariat of the 1954 Hague Convention
- ▶ Ensemble of the Guard music

13:00 to 13:30

#### Snacks & departure

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END OF CONFERENCE

## SESSION 5 | INTERNATIONAL MEASURES AGAINST CULTURAL HERITAGE EXPLOITATION



### **Tiziano COIRO**

Officer of the Italian Carabinieri for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. In his working career, he held several leading positions in the Carabinieri Corps, carrying out routine police and law enforcement activities.

In 2015, Coiro started his career in the field of Cultural Heritage Protection, initially in resource management and in the coordination of staff for employment abroad in the training activities for police forces and in the management of personnel directly involved in the recovery of the mobile and immovable cultural heritage, during the earthquake in central Italy, in August 2016. He was also directly involved in the training of police officers and civil servants in the protection of cultural property. In the last four years, he's been in charge as Commander of an operating department specialized in combating the falsification of cultural goods and contemporary art.

He was appointed by INTERPOL as Coordinator of the Works of Art Unit in the General Secretariat of INTERPOL, in Lyon, France and focuses on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property through cooperation, communication, and coordination between the member countries of the Organization, other international organizations and regional, and institutions.

COIRO has a master's Degree in Architecture and a master's Degree in Security Science Internal and External. In addition, throughout his police career he has attended different courses, workshops, seminars, and congresses especially focalized in the matter of the protection of cultural heritage. Attended the specialization course for the protection of cultural goods in the Italian Ministry of Culture.

## **Abstract**

In my presentation, I will explain the main role of INTERPOL to fight against illicit trade of cultural property in the light of experience gained from a master's Degree in Architecture, a master's Degree in Security Science Internal and External as well as police career in the matter of the protection of cultural heritage, attendance the specialize courses for the protection of cultural property in the Italian Ministry of Culture, being an officer of the Italian Carabinieri for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, and currently working as a Coordinator of the Works of Art Unit in the General Secretariat of INTERPOL, in Lyon, France. Sharing information among countries, bringing experts on movable, immovable, tangible, intangible, natural and underwater cultural heritage together in conferences, colloquiums, workshops in order offer training on how combat cross-border illicit trade are the main roles of INTERPOL. INTERPOL also publish reports "poster" for the most relevant cultural property stolen recently (two for year and in case of special events), crimes against cultural property and survey of member countries. The database on stolen works of art is the main instrument of INTERPOL to combat the trafficking of cultural goods. The INTERPOL database on stolen works of art consists of information provided by its Member States and includes descriptions and images of more than 52 000 objects. It is the only international database with certified police information on stolen or missing cultural or artistic objects. The data in the database shall be entered by the National Central Offices of INTERPOL.

My presentation firstly deals with the main missions of INTERPOL for struggling illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Then, it will also briefly explain the process of gathering information, processing this information, and measures are taken against illicit trade. Finally, my presentation will focus on how to use and contribute to the INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database and the use of the App ID Art, special tool of INTERPOL.



## **Hamady GAYE**

Curator of libraries, Hamady Gaye is Head of the department for the preservation and conservation of collections at the central library of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, one of the largest in Africa.

Gaye is a specialist in first emergency aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis or challenging circumstances. In this regard, he had to carry out interventions to safeguard heritage in Senegal. Furthermore, he is a global cultural actor working to protect and safeguard cultural heritage through the Blue Shield International (BSI) of which he is an elected Board member, and “Memory of the World”. This is how he contributes to the creation of national BSI committees in Africa. He is the author of several communications and scientific publications in cultural fields, notably the issues of protection of African cultural heritage which faces climate change and conflicts that are devastating to cultural property.

### **Abstract**

West Africa’s cultural heritage is a blend of Negro-African, Arab-Muslim and Judeo-Christian civilisations. This diversity is what makes it so rich and original. However, since 2012, taking advantage of the weakness of the Sahelian states in political and security crisis following the collapse of the Libyan state, Salafist jihadist groups have invaded the entire Sahel-Saharan strip, dragging it into a cycle of violence and insecurity.

Cultural heritage is particularly hard hit by this chaotic situation, suffering human aggression of all kinds. It is at the heart of religious, political and ideological exploitation. Armed Salafist movements are waging a veritable “cultural and doctrinaire war” against the practices, representations and expressions of traditional African religions and West African Islam of a Sufi nature.

This context of insecurity gives rise to inter-community violence, which also has dramatic consequences for the social balance in traditional societies. Faced with the vulnerabilities and institutional weaknesses of States, cultural heritage is expressly targeted for looting of all kinds, since it is perceived as the symbol of the power of the contested State authority, of foreign and cultural domination.

Faced with this perilous situation, proactive and coercive strategies need to be determined, especially with the involvement of local West African communities, because “culture can’t wait”.

## PANEL DISCUSSION



**Michelle DE GRUCHY**

Dr. Michelle de Gruchy is the lead analyst for cultural heritage and archaeology at the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT). Dr. De Gruchy first became involved in cultural property protection over 20 years ago working in commercial/contract archaeology where she conducted fieldwork and used background research and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to mitigate the impact of development on archaeological sites and historic properties.

She first became involved with cultural property protection in conflict settings with the onset of the conflict in Syria in 2011. Now at UNOSAT, Michelle and her team use satellite imagery analysis to monitor heritage through complex emergencies and conduct damage assessments around the world, upon request from Member States and UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies.



## **Abstract**

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) is proliferating across many industries alongside rapid advancements, particularly in the area of Large Language Models (LLMs), but also to some extent GeoAI (e.g. SegmentAnything). The enthusiasm surrounding AI/ML and widespread experimentation is producing tantalising results of what may be possible in the future: automatic feature detection, automatic change detection, the ability to produce beautiful maps without needing to learn the principles of GIS or the tools and algorithms behind the results.

Within cultural heritage and, in particular archaeology where development has been taking place for over a decade, published AI/ML tools for both feature detection and automatic change detection are trained for specific use cases and are not near operational on a global scale. Moreover, the accuracy of these context-specific tools varies between around 70 percent to about 90 percent, where it is reported.

For an organisation like the United Nations Satellite Centre, precision is critical. UNOSAT is actively engaged in AI research in two areas: building damage detection and flood water detection. DISHA is an AI-assisted building damage assessment tool in development. While FloodAI is a tool that can automatically detect flood waters using SAR data. FloodAI is operationalised in limited contexts and the results are always validated by an expert analyst. We cannot publish maps with error margins of 30-, 10-, or even 5-percent. UN agencies and programmes, Member States, and NGOs like the Red Cross and Red Crescent need to know that our maps are reliable for directing their limited resources to where they are needed most.



## **Damian KOROPECKYJ**

Damian Koropeczyj, MA, is a field archaeologist and specialist in cultural heritage and conflict. He is currently Director of Operations for the CURIA Lab Conflict Observatory project, documenting destruction to cultural heritage and potential war crimes in Ukraine.

Koropeczyj previously worked as a Senior Analyst at the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML), Virginia Museum of Natural History and Visiting Scholar at the Smithsonian Institution. His research on the exploitation of cultural heritage in conflict in Ukraine has been presented to members of the U.S. Congress and U.K. Parliament. Damian's research interests include information operations and digital discourse concerning cultural heritage, Russian destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage and the construction of new Russian monuments in their place.

### **Abstract**

In documenting the state of cultural property in the conflict in Ukraine, it quickly becomes clear that all data needs to be carefully verified – especially due to the active and targeted exploitation of cultural heritage by the Russian Federation as part of the information war.

While machine learning presents a multitude of benefits and use cases in cultural property protection, the presence of mis- or disinformation in publicly generated data used to build models places risks on workflows that could impact military planning on cultural property protection. Additionally, feedback loops that develop between existing content and content generated by algorithms leave potential for civilian populations to be exploited by cultural heritage narratives that place military operations and units at risk.



## **Timotheus SCHLESS**

Timo Schless is one of the initiators of Whiteflag, a secure and neutral communications protocol to allow parties in conflict and disaster zones share real-time information on protected entities, such as medical facilities and cultural heritage.

Apart from his volunteer work for the Whiteflag Foundation, Schless is an active-duty signals officer in the Royal Netherlands Air Force, specialised in interoperability and tactical data communications. Among other activities, he was deployed to Africa as the Chief of Staff of a Netherlands helicopter detachment providing reconnaissance, armed escorts and medical evacuations in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

Schless is a distinguished war college graduate from the College of Information & Cyberspace at the United States National Defense University.

The Conference will be held in Vienna, Austria, at the **National Defence Academy (NDA)**.

**Address:**

Stift Kaserne General Spannocchi  
Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna

**Conference room:**

Sala Terrena

