



**Culture in Crisis**



**Rathgen-Forschungslabor**  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin



THE CENTRE FOR STUDY AND PROMOTION OF  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GEORGIA

## **COLLABORATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS: PRESERVING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE** **27 – 28 April 2023**

The Georgian National Museum, in collaboration with the Victoria & Albert Museum's Culture in Crisis Programme, the Centre for Study and Promotion of Natural and Cultural Heritage of Georgia, the Rathgen Research Laboratory with the National Museums Berlin and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, are preparing for a major international conference to be held from 26 - 29 April 2023, in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The conference will explore the value of collaboration when working to preserve natural and cultural heritage; before, during and after times of crisis. We seek to bring together those with a shared interest in the protection of heritage, from various backgrounds, disciplines, and approaches.

Conflict, criminal activities, and the impacts of the climate crisis - alongside fundamental changes to social, political, and economic systems - have long represented a serious threat to both natural and cultural heritage. Understanding the potential impacts of complex and dynamic situations, managing various risks, as well as actively addressing threats are all necessary stages in their successful protection. Rarely are these things we can do alone.

The regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the Middle East have for many years experienced periods of turbulent instability and in some cases direct conflict. Before, during and after times of crisis, the role heritage can play in supporting communities, fostering cohesion, and creating development opportunities becomes more relevant than ever. As remedies to intolerance and animosity, intercultural and interreligious dialogue can serve as valuable assets in the promotion of peace in the aftermath of crisis globally.

Through the conference we will explore key thematic areas, including:

- The value of networks and alternative frameworks for cooperation
- The civic role of museums and heritage organisations before, during and after crisis.
- Partnership beyond traditional boundaries of working – with particular reference to engagement with humanitarian organisations, the media and the military.

By developing new academic and professional partnerships through the convening of the conference, we hope to construct a network of individuals and organizations working in Georgia and the surrounding region who are unified in their resolve to protect cultural and natural heritage under threat. Through discussion and the sharing of expertise across a variety of professional backgrounds we hope to combat the global threat to heritage using a multi-disciplinary approach, engaging from community to governmental level. As an outcome, we expect the conference to make a significant contribution to national and international efforts to enhance crisis prevention and emergency response in the field of cultural and natural heritage.

Alongside the conference, capacity building opportunities for regional heritage professionals will be developed. These will include areas of training such as risk assessment, emergency planning and crisis management.

*This conference is supported by the U.S. Embassy in Georgia, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (UK) and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Germany.*



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### PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*Please note, all times are given in local Tbilisi time (GMT +4).*

**Thursday 27 April: Conference Day 1**

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-WQ4iqonRC2uNfKExFA\\_LA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-WQ4iqonRC2uNfKExFA_LA)

09:00 – 10:00	<b>Conference Registration</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Welcome Addresses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mikheil Tsereteli</b>, Co-founder, The Centre for Study and Promotion of Natural and Cultural Heritage of Georgia</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Dr. Stefan Simon</b>, Director, Rathgen-Forschungslabor, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz</li> <li>• <b>Vernon Rapley</b>, Director of Cultural Heritage Protection and Security, Victoria &amp; Albert Museum</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Dr. David Lordkipanidze</b>, Director General, The Georgian National Museum</li> <li>• <b>Christopher Anderson</b>, Cultural Attaché, US Embassy in Tbilisi</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:40	<p><b>Session 1 (PRESENTATIONS)</b> <b>THE VALUE OF NETWORKS AND ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR COOPERATION</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Prof. Dr. Stefan Simon, Director, Rathgen-Forschungslabor, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Heritage Protecting, Culture Sustainability and Community Wellbeing in Wartime”</b> Dr. Anastasiia Cherednychenko Chair of the ICOM Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>“Post-earthquake situation of cultural heritage in Türkiye”</b> Prof. Dr. Ayse Guliz Bilgin Altinoz, Middle East Technical University Department of Architecture, Türkiye</li> <li>• <b>“Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Antiquities: An Ongoing Project at the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology-Yarmouk University-Jordan”</b> Prof. Dr. Ziad Al-Saad, Project leader and Principal Investigator; Professor of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage, Department of Conservation, Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology-Yarmouk University, Jordan.</li> <li>• <b>“Supporting Networks for Resilience and Peace”</b> Alexandra Fiebig, Project Manager, International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), Switzerland</li> <li>• <b>“External Actors and Cultural Heritage Management”</b> Dr. Freda Nkirote M’Mbogori, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya</li> <li>• <b>“Lessons from Indigenous United States: Rights of Peoples to Their Own Cultures”</b> Shannon O’Loughlin, Chief Executive Officer and Attorney for the Association on American Indian Affairs, USA</li> <li>• <b>“Heritage of Coping: Community Engagement of Indigenous Groups in the Philippines in Times of Disasters”</b></li> </ul>

	<p>Royce Lyssah M. Malabonga, Assistant Professorial Lecturer, De La Salle University, Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Preventing and responding: an overview of ICOM and its Heritage Protection tools"</b> Kylie King, Heritage Protection Programmes Coordinator, International Council of Museums (ICOM), France</li> <li>• <b>"Supporting local people for safeguarding cultural heritage during crisis"</b> Dr. Mariko Makino, Assistant Professor, Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Teikyo University, Japan - <i>video presentation</i></li> <li>• <b>"Protection of the Cultural Heritage During the War - Syrian Experience"</b> Prof. Mamoun Abdulkarim, University Sharjah, United Arab Emirates -<i>video presentation</i></li> </ul>
11:40 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 1 (PANEL DISCUSSIONS)</b> <b>THE VALUE OF NETWORKS AND ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR COOPERATION</b>
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:50	<p><b>Session 2 (PRESENTATIONS)</b> <b>THE CIVIC ROLE OF MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CRISIS</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Vernon Rapley, Director of Cultural Heritage Protection and Security, Victoria &amp; Albert Museum</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Identity War in Ukraine: the Power of Cultural Collaboration"</b> Dr. Ihor Poshyvailo, Director General of the Maidan Museum, Vice-Chair of ICOM-DRMC, Co-founder of Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI), Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>"Living and working during the war - Personal experience."</b> Katerina Yegorova, The National Preserve "Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra", Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>"Preserving Aleppo's Memory: The Vital Role of Social Media and Community Archiving"</b> Kristin Parker, USA</li> <li>• <b>"Disaster preparedness in Museums: joining forces to protect cultural heritage"</b> Prof. Peter Giere, Curator of the Embryological Collection and Head of the Collection Competence Centre, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany</li> <li>• <b>"Heritage Buildings of Southern Iraq: documenting Deterioration and Threats"</b> Muntadher Aloda, State Board of Antiquates and Heritage, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>"Crisis in Museums: Perhaps a Chain of common disasters and the Post-colonial Discourse"</b> Johanna Ndahekelelewa Nghishiko, Conservator (Cultural Heritage Collections "Ethnographic"), Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture, National Museum of Namibia Windhoek, Namibia.</li> <li>• <b>"Civic role of Rwandan Museums for the reconstruction of Rwandan Unity aftermath of The Genocide Against the Tutsis in 1994"</b> Prof. Ndikumana Isidore, Director of Kings' Palace Museum, Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Can and Should Museums be a Voice of Conscience?”</b> Dr. Paulina Florjanowicz, Director of the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections, Poland - <i>video presentation</i></li> </ul>
15:50 – 16:10	Break
16:10 – 17:00	<b>Session 2 (PANEL DISCUSSION)</b> <b>THE CIVIC ROLE OF MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CRISIS</b>
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Q&amp;A &amp; Closing Remarks</b>

## Friday 28 April: Conference Day 2

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cLO24WbHQWSns8QTtQxW5Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cLO24WbHQWSns8QTtQxW5Q)

09:00 – 10:00	<b>Conference Registration</b>
10:00 – 11:10	<p><b>Session 3 (PRESENTATIONS)</b> <b>PARTNERSHIP BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF WORKING</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Laura Searson, Cultural Heritage Preservation Lead, Victoria &amp; Albert Museum</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Some Lessons from Helping Ukrainian Museums and Ukrainian Cultural Heritage”</b> Prof. Piotr Rypson Chair, ICOM Poland, Poland</li> <li>• <b>“Governance for Heritage Management and Risk Preparedness: Lessons from Sustainable Development Advocacy at ICOMOS and the February 2023 Earthquake in Türkiye”</b> Dr. Ege Yildirim, Independent Heritage Planner, Türkiye</li> <li>• <b>“The Role of Non-State Actors in Preserving Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict: Syria a case study”</b> Prof. Amr Al-Azm (professor of Middle East History and Anthropology), Shawnee State University (Ohio, USA) and Qatar University (Gulf Studies Program) Heritage Organizations: ATHAR Project (Co-Director); TDA-HPI (Director), USA</li> <li>• <b>“Heritage and the Military; Keys to Successful Partnership”</b> Dr. Laurie W. Rush, US Army Archaeologist Cultural Resources Manager Native American Liaison, PhD in Anthropology, USA</li> <li>• <b>“Activism, Networks, Territories”</b> Prof. Stefano Baia Curioni, Bocconi University, Italy</li> <li>• <b>“Role of Partnership in Fostering the Resilience of the Ukrainian Cultural Sector”</b> Daryna Nedzelska, Head of the Sector for Cooperation with UNESCO of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, National Focal Point for 1972 World Heritage Convention</li> <li>• <b>“Civil Society role on the protection of cultural heritage during conflict: the case of Heritage for Peace”</b> Dr. Isber Sabrine, Heritage for Peace, Spain &amp; Syria</li> <li>• <b>“Serving as an expert witness: working with lawyers to assess heritage resources and ownership.”</b> Prof. Sandra L. López Varela (PhD, RPA 15480), Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Cultural Collaboration along the Silk Roads: Power, Patronage and Preservation”</b> Dr. Elena Paskaleva, Assistant Professor in Critical Heritage Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands</li> </ul>
11:10 – 11:40	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:40 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 3 (PANEL DISCUSSION 1/2)</b> <b>PARTNERSHIP BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF WORKING</b>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Session 3 (PANEL DISCUSSION 2/2)</b> <b>PARTNERSHIP BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF WORKING</b>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:15	<p><b>Session 4 (PRESENTATIONS)</b> <b>BUILDING THE FUTURE ON A VIBRANT PAST: THE GEORGIAN CASE</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Prof. Dr. Stefan Simon, Director, Rathgen-Forschungslabor, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Current threats and challenges to the cultural heritage of Georgia”</b> Manana Tevzadze, Chairperson, Blue Shield Georgia</li> <li>• <b>“Biocultural Heritage as Competitive Advantage for Georgia: Crisis as an Opportunity”</b> Prof. David Lordkipanidze, Director General, The Georgian National Museum</li> </ul>
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b>