

**CHANGING APPROACHES TOWARDS RESTITUTION AND RETURN OF COLONIAL HERITAGE:
TRACING EXPERIENCES AND IDENTIFYING SHARED DECOLONIAL PRACTICES**

Speaker Bios

DAY 1: 23 MAY 2024

OPENING SESSION

Wayne Modest is Professor of Material Culture and Critical Heritage Studies at the Faculty of Humanities at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam and Director of Content at Wereldmuseum, the National Museum of World Cultures in the Netherlands with branches in Amsterdam, Leiden and Rotterdam, and the Research Center for Material Culture. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the German Lost Art Foundation. In 2024, he received the Iris Foundation Award.

Carsten Stahn is Professor of International Criminal Law and Global Justice at the Leiden Law School and Queen's University Belfast. He holds a PhD and habilitation from Humboldt University Berlin and received the Ciardi Prize of the International Society for Military Law and multiple research grants from the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO). His work focuses on the intersection between international law and international justice, including the law and politics regarding the restitution of colonial heritage. He is inter alia author of *Confronting Colonial Objects* (OUP, 2023). In 2024, he was listed among the best scientists in the field of Law by Research.com, ranking 327th in the world ranking and 7th in the Netherlands.

Pieter ter Keurs is emeritus professor of Museums, Collections and Society at the faculties of Archaeology and Humanities at Leiden where he also served as Academic Director of the LDE Centre for Global Heritage and Development. He worked as curator at the National Museum of World Cultures and as Head of Collections and Research at the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities. He specializes in critical museums studies and the study of material culture. His works include *The Urge to Collect: Motives, Obsessions and Tensions* (Sidestone Press, 2023), *Colonial Collections Revisited* (CNWS Publications) (Leiden University Press, 2013) and *Indonesia: Discovery of the Past* (KIT, 2006).

Lilian Gonçalves-Ho Kang You is Chair of the Restitution Committee Colonial Collections. She has inter alia served as State Council at the Dutch Council of State (Raad van State). She was previously a lawyer and a member of the State Commission on the Constitution. She was awarded the Aletta Jacobsprijs for her social involvement and efforts in the field of human rights and women's rights. She holds a honorary doctorate from Leiden University and received the Gouden Zandloper Oeuvreprijs, recognizing excellence in the legal profession.

PANEL 1

George Okello Abungu is a Cambridge-trained archaeologist and former director-general of the National Museums of Kenya. He is CEO of Okello Abungu Heritage Consultants and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Defense of Art from the Association for Research into Crimes Against Art (ARCA). He was Kenya's representative to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and Vice President of its Bureau (2004-2008). He is founding associate professor of the M.A. in heritage management at the University of Mauritius. Recent works include *Cultural Heritage Management in Africa: The Heritage of the Colonized* (Routledge, 2022).

Naomi Oosterman is an Assistant Professor of Cultural Heritage at the Department of Arts and Culture Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Cluster Manager of the research group Heritage under Threat, which is part of the Centre for Global Heritage and Development. Her research interests are the illicit trade of arts and antiquities (with a particular focus on Latin America), the policing of art and heritage crime, and contested and colonial heritage. She is the editor (with Dr. Donna Yates) of the volumes *Crime and art: Sociological and criminological perspectives of crimes in the art world*, and *Art Crime in Context*, which were the first volumes dedicated to the sociological and criminological study of art and heritage crimes. She also published the co-edited volume (with Camila Malig Jedlicki and Dr. Rodrigo Christofolletti) *Colonial heritage, conflict, and contestation: Negotiating decolonisation in Latin America* (Springer 2023) which explores, among other things, the relationship between the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and decolonial thought.

Camila Malig Jedlicki is a PhD Candidate at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON) of Utrecht University. She also works as a lecturer at the Department of Arts and Culture of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research interests include cultural heritage, social inequality, colonial legacies and decolonisation. She has published several articles on these topics, and co-edited the volume *Colonial heritage, conflict, and contestation: Negotiating decolonisation in Latin America* (Springer 2023), with Naomi Oosterman (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Rodrigo Christofolletti (Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora).

Lucas Lixinski is a Professor at the Faculty of Law & Justice, UNSW Sydney. Prior to joining UNSW, he was a Postgraduate Fellow at the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas School of Law. He holds a PhD in International Law from the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), an LLM in Human Rights Law from Central European University (Budapest, Hungary), and an LLB from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil). His 2020 co-edited commentary to the 2003 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (Oxford University Press, 2020) (with Janet Blake) received the American Society of International Law's Certificate of Merit for high technical craftsmanship and utility to practicing lawyers and scholars. His recent publications include *International Heritage Law for Communities* (OUP 2019) and the *Legalized Identities Cultural Heritage Law and the Shaping of Transitional Justice* (OUP. 2021).

Elena Baylis is a Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh and an expert in post-conflict and transitional justice. Her scholarship focuses on topics that concern the relationships among communities and between domestic and international law, such as protection and repatriation of cultural objects (e.g., 'Looted Cultural Objects', 124 *Columbia Law Review Forum*), reconciliation mechanisms, hybrid criminal courts, the roles of international criminal law professionals, and crimes against humanity within the United States. She has conducted field research and worked on legal education/rule of law initiatives in several post-conflict states, including Kosovo, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her research has been commissioned by the International Center for Transitional Justice and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

PANEL 2

Wouter Veraart is Professor of Legal Philosophy and Head of Department Legal Theory and Legal History at the VU University Amsterdam. He is responsible for the courses in legal philosophy within the Bachelor programmes of the Faculty of Law and committed to the Master Programme Philosophy of Legal Science. His work focuses inter alia on cultural restitution, the ambiguous relationship between the rule of law and legal injustice and the role of law in dealing with cases of historic injustice. He is part of the *Pressing Matters* project on Ownership, Value and the Question of Colonial Heritage in Museums.

Evelien Campfens is an academic and consultant with expertise in international cultural property law, affiliated with the University of Amsterdam. She has pursued a career at the Dutch Restitutions Committee for Nazi looted art (general secretary 2001-2015) and obtained her PhD on cross-border cultural property claims at the University of Leiden. She was a post-doc fellow at the Research Group 'Museums Collections and Society'. Her present research focuses on the intersection of private and public law standards in this field, particularly the question whether traditional legal concepts of ownership (still) fit cultural property. She serves as member of the Committee on Participation in Global Cultural Heritage Governance of the International Law Association and the Ethics Committee of the Dutch Museum Association (Ethische Codecommissie).

Jos van Beurden is a senior researcher on colonial cultural collections and restitution, affiliated with VU Amsterdam). His most recent publications include *Treasures in Trusted Hands – Negotiating the Future of Colonial Cultural Objects* (Sidestone, 2017), *Inconvenient Heritage – Colonial collections and restitution in the Netherlands and Belgium* (Amsterdam University Press, 2022) and *The Empty Showcase Syndrome* (Amsterdam University Press, 2024). For his merits in the cultural heritage field, he was appointed Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau. He is founder of the news service RM* (*restitution matters*).

Sophie Starrenburg is Assistant Professor of Public International Law at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden Law School. She defended her PhD on the intersections between the 'local' and the 'global' in cultural heritage law at Leiden (cum laude) and was a postdoctoral researcher at the Department for Public Law and Governance of Tilburg Law School, where she was a member of the 'Constitutionalising in the Anthropocene' research group. She has advised the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in the Netherlands and is a member of the ILA Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict. She is also a member of the 'Our Common Dignity' Rights-Based Approaches Working Group and the International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI) of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

PANEL 3

Diana M. Natermann is part of the WONAGO Project team at Hamburg University. Prior to that, she was Assistant Professor at Leiden University in the International Relations and Global Orders track at the History Department. She successfully gained her PhD at the European University Institute in Florence and published it as a book (*Pursuing Whiteness in the Colonies. Private Memories from the Congo Free State and German East Africa (1884-1914)*, Waxman,

2018)), which was shortlisted for the Waterloo Centre for German Studies Book Prize. Her current work focuses on two main issues: the long-term effects of colonial photographic visualisations and the creation of racial and racist stereotypes, and the possibilities of digital restitution.

Murtaza Mohiqi is Assistant Professor Law at the University of South-Eastern Norway, where he works on Human Rights and Diverse Societies, as well as Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights. He has over ten years of experience in human rights, gender, and digital rights work in Afghanistan and Iran. His research critically examines emerging technologies, with a particular focus on their implications within the realm of law and human rights.

Gagandeep Kaur is Associate Professor in Law at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, India. She holds a Ph.D. in Law and published numerous books and articles in cyber law, information technology law, cyber crimes & data security law.

Marie-Sophie de Clippele is Assistant professor of law, holding a chair in nature and heritage law at UC Louvain Saint-Louis - Brussels. Her research focuses on cultural heritage and environmental law, with a strong interest in legal theory. She participates in various interdisciplinary research projects relating to the restitution of colonial collections, the status of human remains, the digitization of natural history collections, or the rights of nature. Her first monograph addressed the burden of heritage ('Protéger le patrimoine culturel: à qui incombe la charge?', PUSL, 2020) while her second book deals with human remains ('Restes humains et patrimoine culturel, de quels droits?', Anthemis, 2023).

Bérengère Piret is Assistant Professor of History at UC Louvain and archivist at the National Archives of Belgium (AGR), where she is responsible for managing and opening up to research archives relating to the colonial history of Belgium, the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi as part of the SHARE project.

Wiebe Reints is a junior researcher on colonial museum collections and archives at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. He works within the Colonial Collections Consortium on creating a set of digital research aids that should guide provenance researchers. His research explores the possibilities of digital infrastructures to foreground the interests of source communities and to decolonize the practice of restitution.

DAY 2: 24 MAY 2024

Peju Layiwola is Mellon Curatorial Fellow at the Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa. She is an artist and professor of art history, at the Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos. The starting point of her works are themes such as the looting and restitution of cultural assets from the Kingdom of Benin (Nigeria), as well as the culture of memory, voids and postcolonial continuities. She works in a variety of media, focusing on personal and communal histories that shine a light on Benin as both an ancient kingdom and a contemporary city. She has had several exhibitions which include: Benin1897.com: Art and the Restitution Question, Lagos/Ibadan (2010), Whose Centenary?, Benin City (2014), RESIST! The Art of Resistance (2020-2022) and I Miss You, (2022-), both at the Rautenstrauch Joest Museum, Koln, Germany. She has received several awards and grants some of which include the Lagos Studies Association Distinguished Scholar's Award, 2021; Tyson Scholar, Crystal Bridges Museum of

American Art, Arkansas, 2019; and Terra Foundation for American Art Grant, 2018 and SSA Cultural Exchange Programme grant 2021.

PANEL 4

Lucas da Costa Maciel is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Archaeology of Memorial University of Newfoundland and part of the Kiñelmapu Koyawe Repatriation Commission, Chile. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and serves as advisor on matters of Indigenous cultural heritage and repatriation. His research focuses on the transformation and de-patrimonialization of indigenous collections at the Mapuche de Cañete Museum in Chile, an institution currently run by professionals of Mapuche origin.

Alicia Schrikker is Senior University Lecturer on colonial and global history and Director of Research at the Leiden University Institute for History. She works on everyday colonialism and society-state interaction in colonial contexts in Asia in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, through a focus on sites and moments of exchange and interaction. She obtained a VIDI grant by NWO for her project on ‘Institutional memory in the making of colonial culture: history, experience and ideas in Dutch colonialism in Asia, 1700 – 1870. She has published inter alia *Weapons of Persuasion - the global wanderings of six Kandyan objects* (Colombo: Tambapanni Academic Publishers, 2023), *Being a Slave: Histories and Legacies of European Slavery in the Indian Ocean* (Amsterdam University Press, 2020) and *World History – a Genealogy* (Amsterdam University Press, 2017).

Afolasade Adewumi is a Reader in the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, University of Ibadan, where she teaches cultural property law, the Nigerian legal system and private international law. She wrote her PhD on the return and restitution of cultural property in African States under the 1970 UNESCO and 1995 UNIDROIT Conventions. She has benefitted from several international scholarships on heritage matters and inter alia published articles on restitution and Benin artefacts in the *Santander Art & Culture Law Review*, *Art, Antiquity and Law*, and the *International Review of Law and Jurisprudence*.

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Nanette Snoep is Director of the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Cologne. Trained as anthropologist, she has been working for many years as curator at the Quai Branly museum, where here she was in charge of the History Heritage Unit. Since 2016, she has been head of various ethnographic museums in Saxony in Germany, where she experimented with new exhibition formats. She also taught African art history for ten years at the Ecole du Louvre, the University of Nanterre and the EHESS in Paris. In 2022, she received the Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity.

Amber Aranui (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) is the former project lead for Ngākahu – National Repatriation Project, which supports New Zealand museums and iwi in the return of ancestral remains held in museums collections. She is a founding member and former chair of the New Zealand Repatriation Research Network, set up to assist repatriation researchers to work collaboratively with the aim of proactively returning ancestral remains back to iwi, hapū

and other communities around the world. She has worked to develop the national policy on repatriation for the New Zealand museum sector. She is also working with her own iwi (tribal group) on repatriation initiatives relating to the return of taonga (objects of culturally significant). She has recently taken up the position of Curator Mātauranga Māori at Te Papa, where she is now working to return taonga Māori back to communities.

Mark Hall is currently based at Perth Museum & Art Gallery, as a Collections Officer, with a particular responsibility for Archaeology and ‘World Cultures’. He has been the collections lead for the recently opened new Perth Museum. A key element of that development was, and is, the co-curation of the Māori taonga cared for in Perth, working with the National Museum of New Zealand/Te Papa Tongarewa in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding between Perth and Te Papa. Mark was instrumental in the archaeology and history collections being awarded Recognition status under the Scottish Government’s National Recognition Scheme for Scotland’s museums. He is a member of several professional and archaeological bodies including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, the Society of Antiquaries and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Museums Association and the European Association of Archaeologists, and has served on several national working groups dealing with issues around Treasure Trove, Pacific Collections and human remains in museums for example and also the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee. He currently serves on the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel as part of Scottish Treasure Trove. His research interests encompass various aspects of medieval material culture, especially around play and supernatural practices.

Madelon Dewitte is an art historian and lawyer (ULB, 2020). She also holds a Master in African Studies (ULB, 2021) and a university diploma on Provenance Research (Paris-Nanterre, 2022), while working at an art law office in Brussels during the same time. Since 2022, she has been working as provenance researcher within the PROCHE project at the Africamuseum (Royal Museum for Central Africa).

CLOSING DISCUSSION

Jackie Swift (Comanche/Ft Sill Apache) is the Repatriation Manager for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Her role includes implementing the NMAI’s repatriation policy and procedures, with an emphasis on the return of ancestral remains and their burial accompaniment back to their communities of origin, both domestically and internationally. This includes implementing the department’s two-pronged approach for repatriation case work that proactively addresses human remains cases, as well as claims asserted by tribes, First Nations, and Indigenous communities. More recently, she participated on the Smithsonian’s Ethical Returns Working Group and the Implementation Working Group tasked with developing a formal policy that would allow for the shared stewardship arrangements and/or the return of collections based on ethical considerations.

Amy Shakespeare is an International Repatriation Specialist based in Cornwall, England. She is currently working to develop and implement the Association on American Indian Affairs’ International Repatriation Strategy. As an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded PhD Researcher and Postgraduate Teaching Associate at the University of Exeter, her research aims to enable more European museums to undertake repatriation through more anticolonial processes. She has worked in the museums and heritage sector in the UK for over a decade, for

organisations such as the National Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Following a Smithsonian Fellowship at the National Museum of the American Indian in 2023, Amy founded Routes to Return - a website that aims to open up global networks, share information, and enable international repatriation. She also sits on the board of the Museum Ethnographers Group as their Repatriation Officer, working to support members to build their skills and confidence in undertaking international repatriation.