

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN A FRAGMENTED MIDDLE EAST

IN COOPERATION WITH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TURIN'S DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES



THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2019

Aula Magna – University of Turin
Via Giuseppe Verdi, 8 – Turin, Italy

Working language: English

With the support of



9:00-9:30 *Registration of participants*

9:30-10:00 **Introductory Remarks**

GIANLUCA CUNIBERTI, University of Turin

ARMANDO BARUCCO, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

LORENZO KAMEL, University of Turin & New-Med Research Network

NICOLÒ RUSSO PEREZ, Compagnia di San Paolo of Turin

10:00-10:15 **Setting the Stage**

FRANCESCO BANDARIN, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

10:15-11:45 **Session I – The Destabilization of the Middle East: a non-Eurocentric Perspective**

According to data provided by the US State Department, “incidents of terrorism” increased of 6500% since the “war on terror” began in 2001: half of them have been registered in Afghanistan and Iraq, whose collapse has had a sort of earthquake effect on the all region. Session I aims to assess the issue of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking within the frame of a destabilized region and provide a historical and geopolitical understanding of what the Middle East is currently experiencing. Speakers will explore the link between local hotbeds of conflict/violence/terrorism in countries such as Syria and Iraq, war economics, transnational criminal networks and the politics of deliberate destruction and theft of cultural heritage. They will also analyze the impact of violent and non-violent non-state actors, failed and fragile states, forced migrations, environmental degradation and demographic changes on the safeguarding of cultural heritage sites and/or risks related to conflict, smuggling or destruction.

Chair **MICHAEL YOUNG**, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut

Panelists **MADAWI AL-RASHEED**, LSE
PINAR BILGIN, Bilkent University
TAMIRACE FAKHOURY, Lebanese American University
ZAYD EYADAT, University of Jordan

Open debate

11:45-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:30 **Session II – Tracking and Mapping Damaged Cultural Heritage and Human Suffering**

Dramatic events affected the Cultural Heritage in Middle Eastern countries, such as the sack of the Iraq Museum, the destructions of Nimrud, Nineveh, and the smashing of Palmyra monuments, the systematic spoliation of important sited by clandestine diggers. The brutal killing of Khaled al-Assad signed the peak in the cycle of violence and devastation. Session II deals with the damages inflicted to the cultural heritage, and investigates how local and international institutions reacted to those terrible happenings.

Chair **CARLO LIPPOLIS**, University of Turin

Panelists **ANNIE F. CAUBET**, The Louvre Museum
ABBAS ALI AL-HUSSAINY, University of Al-Qadisiyah (Iraq)
ALESSANDRA PERUZZETTO, World Monuments Fund
PASCAL BUTTERLIN, Paris Sorbonne – InsSciDe Project

Open debate

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Session III – The Rebirth of Cultural Heritage in a Post-Conflict Middle East

Several national and international projects deal with the rebirth of cultural heritage in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. The Assyrian galleries of the Iraq Museum were fully renewed, National Museum in Damascus recently reopened, evaluation of damages in Iraqi and Syrian sites are currently carried out by several institutions. Speakers of session III will present the situation of four countries, namely, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and the main projects, museums, archaeological excavations, and restoration of damages monuments. This session will also deal with the huge amount of cuneiform tablets that clandestine excavations have brought in the hands of antique dealers and collectors.

CHAIR: **STEFANO DE MARTINO**, University of Turin

PANELISTS: **ZAKI ASLAN**, ICCROM-Athar, Jordan
HELEN SADER, American University of Beirut
LAYLA SALIH, Iraq State Board of Antiquities and Heritage
ÇİĞDEM MANER, Koç University, Turkey

16:00-17:00 Session IV – CONCLUDING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS

CHAIR: **EMILIANO ALESSANDRI**, OSCE

PANELISTS: **EDOARDO GREPPI**, University of Turin
DENNIS COSGROVE, OSCE
GIOVANNA SEGRE, University of Turin
LAURA BASAGNI, The German Marshall Fund of the United states

17:00 End of the Conference