Lecturers and Panel Members

Dr Paul Bennett
Director, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Head of Mission, Society for Libyan Studies, UK

Colonel Matthew Bogdanos
US Marine Corps & Assistant District Attorney, New York, USA

Dr Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO

Dr Marianne Boqvist
Project Manager, Cultural Heritage without Borders, Sweden

Prof Ove Bring
Professor Emeritus of International Law, Stockholm University and the Swedish National Defence College, Sweden

Dr Neil Brodie
Senior Research Fellow, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow, UK

Dr Ilhan Fethi
Professor of Architecture, Expert in Urban and Architectural Heritage, Amman University, Jordan

Prof Dr Markus Hilgert
Director, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin, Germany

Dr Vincent Négri
Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research and Institute of Social Policy Science, Cachan Cedex, France

Dr Magnus Olausson
Associate Professor, Director of Collections & Research, Nationalmuseum, Sweden

Prof Rubina Raja
Professor of Classical Archaeology, Aarhus University, Denmark

Dr Jonathan Tubb
Keeper (Head) of the Middle East Department of the British Museum, UK

Colonial Heritage at Risk
The Role of Museums in War and Conflict

November 26th 2015
at the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ARRANGED BY
AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION
Today, the ongoing violence in the Middle East provides a severe challenge to our cultural heritage. How do we protect and safeguard our cultural heritage in the face of terror and deliberate destruction? How has the museum faced this task historically? What are the safeguarding methods available today? What security measures are in place to keep objects and art works from falling into the wrong hands or being sold on the black market? How does Interpol and UNESCO deal with this severe task? Can looting be avoided or stopped? How can museums together with the academic world respond to these challenges? And last but not least, what is the role and meaning of original objects for mankind’s collective memory and understanding of history?

These and other questions will be raised and discussed together with experts from British, French, German, US and Nordic institutions as well as experts on Iraqi, Libyan and Syrian heritage in order to provide an overview of the different ways in which the museum world can respond.

This international symposium is part of the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation’s seminar series Museums of the World, addressing the idea of the museum, its historical developments and importance today as well as to further the understanding of its influences upon knowledge production, culture and values.

Outline

Thursday, November 26th

13:30 Registration opens in Salongen on 1st floor, coffee served
14:00 Welcome by Christian Mühlenbock, Director, Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities
14:05 Welcome by Kurt Almqvist, President, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation
14:10 Key Note Speech Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO
14:20 Introduction by Ulf Wickbom, moderator
14:25 Magnus Olausson, War Trophies and Looted Art – the ‘Glamorous’ and Dark Side of Museum Acquisitions
14:45 Rubina Raja, The History and Current Situation of World Heritage Sites in Syria with Special Attention to Palmyra
15:05 Ihsan Fethi, Iraqi Cultural Heritage Since the 2003 Invasion
15:25 Paul Bennett, A Heritage at Risk – Libya Before and After the Revolution
15:45 Panel Discussion: Magnus Olausson, Rubina Raja, Ihsan Fethi, Paul Bennett together with Marianne Boqvist
16:05 BREAK
Coffee, tea and sandwiches served

16:35 Markus Hilgert, Protecting the Cultural Heritage of Iraq and Syria New Challenges for a Public Export Institution
16:55 Jonathan Tubb, Preparing for the Aftermath
17:15 Vincent Negri, Crimes against Cultural Heritage of Humanity: Issues of International Law
17:35 Neil Brodie, Scholarly Engagement with Illegally-Traded Cultural Objects
17:55 Matthew Bogdanos, Thieves of Baghdad and the Terrorists They Finance
18:15 Panel Discussion: Markus Hilgert, Jonathan Tubb, Vincent Negri, Neil Brodie, Matthew Bogdanos, together with Ove Bring
18:35- Drinks served in Salongen on 1st floor