



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

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CTD: 23HM - HISTORICITY, MUSEUM, AND ARTEFACTS

SUB-DOMAIN:2. TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS

PANEL TITLE:

ILLCIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL OBJECTS: ANTHROPOLOGICAL THREAT TO MUSEUMS

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ABSTRACT

The UNESCO has said the illicit trafficking of cultural property harms a nation's identity. Jurgen Stock, Secretary General of INTERPOL states that, "We can't see heritage protection in modern conflict as just a cultural issue; it is a security imperative." "Returning the Loot", based on the principles of the 1970 UNESCO Convention, on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. This meeting aimed to raise awareness on the need to strengthen national legislation and tighten controls. It further asked to establish greater regional cooperation and strengthen security in museums and at heritage sites. Under the 1970 Convention, all cultural property is under protection; this includes anything of scientific, historical, artistic, and or religious significance, as defined by Article I of the convention. However, every country can define its own cultural property, if it is an item of importance and within the categories defined in Article I. All the material objects are of immense cultural, aesthetic, historical, ethnic, and scientific relevance. Yet, they are often subjected to theft and trafficking. These can have a devastating and discouraging effect on the cultural heritage of the world. Anthropology is concerned with the material, tangible and intangible cultures of the ethnic groups, trafficking of those cultural goods means illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership of the cultural properties. This can assume different forms. Anthropologists round the globe should efficiently protect the cultural heritage against illicit trafficking for which international collaboration and cooperation forming a solid base of evidence and well targeted projects and designs are needed. To promote the understanding and to prevent trafficking of cultural objects, the panel invites papers and ideas to innovatively unite people to gather for the mission. A comprehensive systems approach can be implemented to safeguard such acts. The purpose of the museum has changed because it is tied to a shift in the notion of how we see the past and how it connects to the society of the present, and how we use the past. Museums, as well as historical writings, represent a middle ground between the past and us. Thus, Museums form a huge part of the onus to safeguard the cultural rights of the ethnic groups round the globe and bridge the community to culture gap.

Keywords: Museum, Heritage, Culture, Anthropology

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