

THE FORENSICS OF PROVENANCE

There is a broad public debate on the restitution of objects with colonial or imperial provenance. However, political and legal debates often disregard the normative understanding and the legal imagination of communities of origin related to these objects. The workshop addresses this issue by providing a common conceptual and disciplinary framework for understanding the embeddedness of material culture in a plurality of legal orders and normative systems. Through interdisciplinary theoretical groundwork, conceptual reflection, and illustrative case studies, its participants fill this lacuna and suggest new research methodologies and legal remedies useful for policymakers, legal scholars, and heritage professionals.

Front image:

Poncho or 'Uncu' of possible Inca origin collected in the Nazca region of Peru by Aleš Hrdlička (c. 1913). Joseph Feldman recently pointed out that Hrdlička smuggled the Nazca textiles of his collection out of Lima, reigniting a debate about its provenance and possible restitution (2016).

ORGANISATION

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VENUE

Käte Hamburger Kolleg

Iduna Building | Room 7011 (7th floor)
Servatiiplatz 9 | 48143 Münster/Germany

KÄTE HAMBURGER KOLLEG

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Einheit und Vielfalt im Recht | Legal Unity and Pluralism" (EViR) at the University of Münster has been funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) since 2021. Fellows from all over the world, together with scholars from Münster, examine the dynamic tension between legal unity and pluralism from antiquity to the present. This is the first attempt to systematically investigate the phenomenon in its entire historical depth and across disciplinary boundaries. In addition to (legal) history, many other disciplines such as ethnology and sociology, as well as literature and religious studies, are involved in the Kolleg.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Register online at:
<https://uni.ms/udkf8>



CONTACT

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COLONIAL TRANSLOCATIONS THROUGH THE LENSES OF LEGAL PLURALISM

INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP
8–9 FEBRUARY 2024

living.knowledge

KÄTE HAMBURGER KOLLEG MÜNSTER
EINHEIT & VIELFALT
IM RECHT
LEGAL UNITY & PLURALISM

Image: Poncho from Ica, Peru, Smithsonian Institution, <https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/A307655-0>.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 8 February 2024

9.00–9.30
EViR Directors (Münster),
Sebastian M. Spitra (Vienna) & João Figueiredo
(Münster)
Opening of the Workshop and Welcome

9.30–10.30 | *Keynote*
Paul Basu (Oxford)
Pluriversal Museology and the *forensis* of Provenance

10.30–11.00 | *Coffee break*

Section 1: Constellations of Normative Knowledge

Chair: Franziska Dübgen (Münster)

11.00–11.45
Lucas Lixinski (Sydney)
Asking Better Provenance Questions? Cultural Heritage,
Legal Pluralism, and the “Other”

11.45–12.30
Carsten Stahn (Leiden)
Confronting Colonial Objects. Histories, Legalities, and
Access to Culture

12.30–14.00 | *Lunch break*

Section 2: Constructing Provenance. Historical Institutions and the Law

Chair: Benjamin Seebröker (Münster)

14.00–14.45
Eva Künkler (Hannover)
Colonial Collections and the Translocation of Objects:
The Long Duration of German Debates on Ownership
and Heritage

14.45–15.30
Sebastian Willert (Leipzig)
The Forensics of Colonial Archaeology: The Ottoman
Antiquity Law, German Excavations Campaigns, and the
Exodus of Antiquities

15.30–16.00 | *Coffee break*

Section 3: The Legal Pluralism of Objects

Chair: Kaveh Yazdani (Münster)

16.00–16:45
**Alice Lopes Fabris (Paris/Brussels) & Caroline Borges
(Recife)**
And What about Internal Restitutions? Legal Aspects of
the Artefacts Return to the Local Communities

16.45–17.30
Diogo Machado (Sydney)
Colonial Translocations in Legal Discourses Surrounding
Indigenous Cultural Objects Recovered in Criminal Pro-
ceedings in Brazil

18.00 | *Dinner*

Friday, 9 February 2024

9.30–10.30 | *Keynote*
María Julia Ochoa Jiménez (Sevilla)
A Latin American Perspective on Restitution:
Legalist and Humanist Views

10.30–11.00 | *Coffee break*

Section 4: Narratives of Belonging

Chair: Larissa Förster (Berlin)

11.00–11.45
**Tokie Laotan-Brown (Nova Gorica) & Bekeh Ukelina
(Cortland, New York)**
Returning *Emwin Arre* to the Benin Kingdom: Using
Traditional Customary Laws as a Path towards Regional
Restitution Policies in Nigeria

11.45–12.30
Martin Skrydstrup (Canberra/Copenhagen)
Provenience by Proxy: On the Dispute about Spirit
Cave Man

12.30–14.00 | *Lunch break*

Section 5: Integrating Pluralism. Thinking Toward Legal Mitigation

Chair: Olaf Zenker (Halle/Saale)

14.00–14.45
Sophie Starrenburg (Leiden)
Decentring Cultural Heritage Law? The Emancipatory
Potential of Particularistic Legal Universalism

14.45–15.30
Andrzej Jakubowski (Warsaw)
Rupture and Continuity: Decolonisation of
International Law

15.30–16.00 | *Coffee break*

Section 6: Normative Knowledge and Institutions

Chair: Olaf Zenker (Halle/Saale)

16.00–16.45
Edward Tan Yu Fan (Singapore)
An Examination of Liminality at the Raffles Museum of
the Straits Settlements, 1884-1939

16.45–17.30
**Gracia Lwanzo Kasongo (Louvain) & Placide
Mumbembele Sanger (Kinshasa)**
Restitution and Knowledge Decolonization: Unpacking
the Return of the Kakuungu Mask in the DR Congo

18.00
Sebastian M. Spitra & João Figueiredo
Concluding Remarks and Farewell