



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP
'Culture in Conflict: The South Caucasus today'
Vienna, World Museum, May 13th-14th, 2022**

Flanked by the Black and Caspian Seas, situated between Europe and Asia, the geopolitically important Caucasus has experienced many conflicts and instability. The coexistence of a wide variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups has repeatedly created tensions, but has also fostered the development of specific local traditions and cultures. Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Armenian Karabakh (Artsakh) in particular, have witnessed cultural conflicts and even open warfare in recent decades, most recently in the autumn of 2020, in the war over Artsakh.

However, the territorial conflict over the small South Caucasian region of Artsakh is also a deeply cultural one - threatening the region's Armenian cultural heritage in a variety of ways.

European policy makers and foreign actors in cultural property protection not only need to address unresolved territorial conflicts. They need to focus attention on the issue of cultural traditions and heritage and how the destruction of cultural property is deliberately used as an instrument of ethnic (and also religious) discrimination and nationalist falsification of history in an area that has undergone major geopolitical changes since 2020.

This conference and the adjoining workshop will not only address the South Caucasian conflict zone and the genesis of the conflict - territorially and culturally - it will also present the rich cultural heritage of Artsakh. The participating experts will jointly seek concrete solutions for the protection and preservation of the centuries-old cultural heritage of Artsakh with the help of political, military and civil society, and domestic and foreign cultural property protection organisations.

Pre-registration required: cultureinconflict2022@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP
"Culture in Conflict: The South Caucasus today"
Weltmuseum – Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, 13 – 14 May 2022

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

		Friday, 13 May 2022 The South Caucasus: conflict, politics, culture and heritage' Public papers	Saturday, 14 May 2022 Cultural Property Protection: Practical Perspectives on the Current Conflicts in the South Caucasus Closed workshop
09.00 – 09.30		admission, registration	admission
09.30 – 11.00	1	The South Caucasus: Chair: Jasmine Dum-Tragut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dir. Georg Plattner and Bishop Tiran: Opening and greeting messages, blessing from Catholicos Karekin II., Catholicos of all Armenians – Karl von Habsburg: Geopolitics of the South Caucasus – Lori Khatchadourian: Caucasus Heritage Watch 	The work in Armenia Chair: Jasmine Dum-Tragut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian V.Rev. Fr. Garegin Hambardzumyan Ani Avagyan, Seda Grigoryan, Richard Giragossian
11.00 – 11.30		<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.30 – 13.00	2	Current Conflict in South Caucasus Chair: Lori Khatchadourian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Richard Giragosian: The Artsakh-conflict from a historical and geo-political view – Francesco Romani: The current conflict in South Caucasus and the destruction of cultural property from an IHL view – Jasmine Dum-Tragut and Seda Grigoryan: The emergence of the Culture Conflict and its development 	The work of Blue Shield Chair: Leylya Strobl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Karl von Habsburg, Friedrich Schipper, Fionnuala Rogers, Anna Pühr
13.00 – 14.00			
14.00 – 15.30	3	Armenian Heritage in Conflict Chair: Fr. Garegin Hambardzumyan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian: The Spiritual Heritage of Artsakh and the role of Church in Heritage protection – Raffi Kortoshyan: The monuments of Artsakh – Ani Avagyan: The museums and collections of Artsakh – Sona Baloyan: The Manuscripts from Artsakh 	The work of Armed Forces and their Civil Partners Chair: Friedrich Schipper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nicole Gruber, Anna Kaiser, Leylya Strobl, Peter Fritz, Hannes Schramm
15.30 – 16.00		<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00 – 17.30	4	Cultural Property Protection: Perspectives on South Caucasus Chair: Friedrich Schipper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Florian Meixner: UNESCO and CPP – Lando Kirchmair: International heritage law – Michael Pesendorfer: The military and CPP in armed conflict 	
18.30 – 19.30		Opening of exhibition "From Karabakh to Vienna" Mekhitarist Congregation Karl von Habsburg, P. Paulus	<i>Ecumenical Vespers</i>

SUPPORTING PROGRAM

- **May 11th, University of Salzburg, Theological Faculty, 12.00-15.00**
“*Culture in conflict: The Armenian cultural heritage in Karabakh*”, Opening of photo exhibition, Lectures and Armenian prayers in University chapel “Sacellum”.
- **May 12th, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria, Vienna.**
Evening Come-together for the participants and organisers of the conference/workshop; reception by His Excellency Ambassador Dr. A. Papikyan
- **May 13th, Mekhitarist Congregation, Vienna.**
Opening of exhibition “*From Karabakh to Vienna. Armenian cultural heritage of Karabakh in the collections of the Mekhitarist Congregation Vienna.*”
- **May 14th, Vienna. (planned)**
Ecumenical vespers (“Prayer for Artsakh”) with representatives of the Armenian-Apostolic Church, of the Mekhitharist congregation, the Catholic Church and other churches in Vienna.

Organising committee:

- Armenian studies division, Center for the Study of the Christian East, University of Salzburg
- Blue Shield Austria
- Roerich pact society Austria
- Austrian committee for the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh
- Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin’s Office for Artsakh spiritual-cultural heritage issues