



CALL FOR PAPERS Session #180

Protecting Archaeological Heritage in the Globalisation Era: Trends, Challenges, Solutions

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KEYWORDS: looting, illicit trade/trafficking of cultural heritage, Social Media, access to museum and private collections, impact covid-19 on looting, publication of illicit finds.

The increase of **trafficking** in cultural goods through **globalisation** constitutes a fast-growing threat to the protection of cultural heritage and its role as an important resource of **socio-economic development**. Online trade and social media significantly ease the organisation of looting and selling of artifacts from conflict areas, Europe and other regions.

This raises questions concerning the **effectiveness and accountability** of the UNESCO 1970 and UNIDROIT 1995 Conventions and other international legal instruments. Bilateral accords (e.g. Met-Italy 2006 “Euphronios” Accord), Codes of Ethics and Conduct (e.g. AIAD/IADAA/CINOA/AIC/ICOM), **best practices and guidelines** underline a global, but toothless will of protection.

Nowadays, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, museums are increasing **Open Access policies**: virtual tours, online databases and catalogues ease international fruition of cultural heritage. On the contrary, there are numerous **private collections** that remain unavailable to research and public.

IT sets out both opportunities for, and challenges to countering of looting and illicit trade. Searchable databases allow users to check the objects’ **provenance** and register **lost/stolen properties** (e.g. Carabinieri T.P.C.’s Leonardo, Art Loss Register), whilst projects that create repositories of artefacts currently in circulation aim at **counteracting** looting and illicit trade (e.g. Circulating Artefacts, Palmyra Portrait Project).

The (continuing) entry of artefacts with doubtful provenance in museums calls for a discussion about whether and how such artefacts should be published. Several institutions (e.g. AIA/DAI/IAA) provide indications. We aim to develop basic **principles/guidelines** for EAA members concerning the **publication of illicit artefacts**.

Papers for this session may include but are not limited to:

- Impact of globalisation on, and strategies against illicit trafficking in cultural material;
- Changes and challenges in looting and illicit trafficking during Covid-19;
- How to increase public accessibility to private collections;
- (Inter)national (online) activities against looting and trafficking;
- Ethics of publishing illicit antiquities;
- Scientific value and narrative of looted objects.

Submit your proposal at <https://eaa.klinkhamergroup.com/eaa2021> by 11 February 2021.