SIEF WG Cultural Heritage and Property (2019-2021)


This panel will explore professional experiences with official safeguarding efforts – dilemmas scholars face when engaging with the 2003 UNESCO Convention on ICH, and how they attempt to (re)solve them? Can “rules and measures” be symbiotic with healthy ICH, and if not, then what is the alternative?


This roundtable calls to examine how to engage reflexively with the field of higher education and (intangible) cultural heritage and weigh critically the entanglements envisioned or discarded when taking into account the emerging moments of power, participation or transgression.

Involvement in UNESCO Issues

SIEF represented on the ICH NGO Forum Steering Committee (since 2020)

In December 2020, WG Board member Dr. Robert Baron, as representative of SIEF being an international NGO, was elected to the Steering Committee of the ICH NGO Forum.


UNESCO Chair on Critical Heritage Studies and Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, Prof. Marc Jacobs) 2014

The specific objectives of the chair are to develop, jointly with partners, an interlocking set of (frameworks for) codes of ethics in safeguarding cultural heritage, focusing first on intangible heritage and then connecting it to other model codes of ethics in the field of culture, as well as other fields.

UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy and Law (Latvian Academy of Culture, Dr. Anita Vaivade) 2017

The chair brings together scholars and students from both cultural studies (i.a. cultural anthropology, cultural sociology) and legal studies (i.a. legal history, international law, comparative law) to contribute to understanding national policies and legislation in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

UNESCO Chair on Applied Studies of Intangible Cultural Heritage (University of Tartu, Estonia, Prof. Kristin Kuutma) 2018

This is a unit of research and international postgraduate teaching on master and doctoral levels, with a goal to build a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, and policy-making. It trains specialists who are well versed in scholarly approaches to intangible cultural heritage, and competent to use this expertise creatively in academia and beyond.

International Research Projects

Osmose II Qualification and Disqualification of Intangible Cultural Heritage: Places of Decision Making (2021-2022)

Project co-director Dr. Anita Vaivade
dpc.hypotheses.org/le-projet-osmose

This research project has an ambition to expose decision making process in the field of ICH and identify its legal consequences. In this sense, it would highlight the phenomena of decision making that are not frequently studied: the role of experts, the silent demarcation lines and the practice of censorship and self-censorship of actors etc.

WG sponsored international research conference “Nonmer/nomer : approches pluridisciplinaires du patrimoine culturel immatériel” is upcoming on November 25, 26 in Paris, France.

WG Members’ Publications


Deadline for submitting abstracts – June 30, 2021 and for articles – August 30, 2021. The issue will be published this year in open-access.

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See also SIEF-WG website / June 2021