

The Max Weber Foundation's annual conference provides a forum for the foundation's institutes and their research topics, as well as for other partner institutions. The event is organized and hosted by a different institute each year and provides the opportunity for an exchange of different international, comparative and trans-regional perspectives on current academic issues.



Max Weber
Foundation

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German Humanities
Institutes Abroad

The Return of Looted Artefacts since 1945

post-fascist and post-colonial
restitution in comparative perspective

Location

Goethe-Institut Rome
Via Savoia, 15
00198 Rome, Italy

Organisation

German Historical
Institute in Rome
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
00165 Rome, Italy
Bianca Gaudenzi
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A circular inset image showing a military truck with a banner that reads "LE OPERE D'ARTE FIORENTINE TORNANO DALL'ALTO ADIGE ALLA LORO SEDE". The truck is carrying an American flag and is surrounded by a crowd of people. The text "6th Annual Conference of the Max Weber Foundation 16-18 May 2022" is overlaid on the image.

6th Annual
Conference of the
Max Weber Foundation
16-18 May 2022

Programme

Monday 16 May 2022

09.00–13.00

Ice-Breaker Outing [for speakers & chairs]
Walking tour of fascist Rome at EUR with F. Bartolini, followed by a visit to the installation *Unveiled storages. How to imagine a decolonial Museum*, former Colonial Museum, with G. Delpino & R. Di Lella

13.00–14.00

Informal lunch [for speakers & chairs]

14.00–15.00

Registration

15.00–15.30

Opening remarks

Hans van Ess (President, Max Weber Foundation)
Martin Baumeister (Director, German Historical Institute Rome)
Joachim Bernauer (Director, Goethe-Institut Rome)
Bianca Gaudenzi (DHI Rome/Konstanz/Cambridge)

15.30–17.00

Panel I: Redefining Restitution Across The 1945 Divide

Chair: Thomas Kirchner (DFK Paris)

Lars Müller (Saxony-Anhalt Museum Association & Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig), *Historicising claims for the return of cultural heritage from colonial contexts*
Jason Lustig (Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, Austin), *To the Victors go the Definitions? Looting, restitution, and the post-WWII US Culture Wars*

17.00–17.30

Afternoon coffee/tea in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

17.30–19.30

Panel II: Shifting Power Structures & Identity Politics

Chair: Miloš Rezník (GHI Warsaw)

Winani Thebele (Botswana National Museum), *The Restitution of Cultural Property: a question of power structures and lost identity*

Barbara Vodopivec (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), *The restitution of artworks from Austria to Yugoslavia after 1945 in the new Central and Eastern European post-war reality*

Abena A. Yalley (University of Konstanz) & **Daniel Kwofie** (University of Professional Studies, Accra), *Restitution is Equal to What? The assassination and return of the head of Badu Bonso II by the Dutch and its implications for the Ahanta people of Ghana*

19.30–20.00

Aperitivo in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

20.00

Keynote Speech: **Bénédicte Savoy** (TU Berlin)

A Monument to Burnt Villages?

On the consequences of radical transparency in museums

Introduced by **Hans van Ess** (President, Max Weber Foundation)

21.00

Dinner [for speakers & chairs]

Registration

Please register (in person or online) by Thursday 12 May 2022: <https://event.dhi-roma.it/participant/create/d126b747-c1bb-4593-867e-eac3db19465a>



GOETHE
INSTITUT

With support of the
Goethe-Institut Rome

Tuesday 17 May 2022

09.00–11.00

Panel III: A Multiple Burden. Tackling Colonial, Nazi And GDR-Era Provenances Together

Chairs: Thomas Maissen (GHI Paris) & Bénédicte Savoy (TU Berlin)

Christine Howald (Zentralarchiv - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin), *Traces of Loss – Asian objects from Jewish collections in German museums*

Mattes Lammert (TU Berlin/DFK Paris), *Displacement of Displaced Objects. Paris, a trading hub of antiquities under German Occupation*

Xenia Schiemann (TU Berlin), *Restitutions behind the Wall? Art market and claims for the return of looted cultural goods between the GDR and the West*



11.00–11.30

Morning coffee/tea in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

11.30–13.30

Panel IV: Institutional Responses To Restitution Claims

Chair: Simone Lässig (GHI Washington)

Jonathan Bach (The New School, NY), *The Object as a Site of Reckoning in Germany's Layered Pasts*

Borbála Klacsmann (Independent researcher), *»In Conflict with the Moral Mindset of the Hungarian People«: anti-Jewish notions in the restitution to Hungarian Holocaust survivors*

James McSpadden (University of Nevada, Reno), *Looted Nazi and Holocaust-Era Books in the United States and the Changing Rationales for Restitution*

13.30–14.30

Lunch in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

14.30–17.00

Panel V: Public And Artistic Narratives Of Restitution

Chair: Christina von Hodenberg (GHI London)

Shlomit Steinberg (Israel Museum), *Dr. Gurlitt and I*
Staffan Lundén (University of Gothenburg), *The Benin bronzes. Whose stories get told, silenced or neutralised?*

Shauna Isaac (Independent researcher, London), *Portrait of Wally: the first major restitution case and its influence on restitution in the last two decades*

Veronika Rudorfer (KunstForum Wien), *Another Form of Restitution? Possibilities and problems of contemporary artistic practices dealing with questions of restitution*

17.00–17.30

Afternoon coffee/tea in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

17.30–20.30

Afternoon Outing [for speakers & chairs]

Walking tour of the Jewish Quartier with **A. Osti Guerrazzi**, followed by aperitivo

21.00

Dinner [for speakers & chairs]

Wednesday 18 May 2022

09.00–11.00

Panel VI: Comparing Post-Fascist & Post-Colonial

Restitution: A Legal Perspective

Chairs: Birgit Schäßler (Orient-Institut Beirut) & Arianna Visconti (Catholic University, Milan)

Leora Bilsky & Rachel Klagsbrun (Buchmann Faculty of Law & Minerva Center for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University), *Beyond Restitution: from Jewish Cultural Reconstruction to the Sarr-Savoy Report – challenging the private property paradigm*

Tabitha Oost (University of Amsterdam), *A Changing “Moral” Paradigm in an Entangled Restitution Debate: lessons learned for the restitution of Nazi-Looted and colonial cultural objects*

Benno Nietzel (Ruhr University Bochum), *Collective and Individual Claims in the Restitution of Cultural Property*

11.00–11.30

Morning coffee/tea in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

11.30–13.30

Panel VII: Decolonising Museal Practices

Chair: Christoph K. Neumann (LMU Munich)

Achia Anzi (University of Amsterdam & Jindal University, Delhi), *Institution, Destitution, Restitution: how to decolonise the museum?*

Flaminia Bartolini (ISPC/CNR & British School at Rome), *Renegotiating the past at the ex-Colonial Museum in Rome*

Dan Hicks (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford), *The Brutish Museums*

13.30–14.30

Lunch in the garden [for speakers & chairs]

14.30–16.30

Panel VIII: Italy And Its Colonial Discontents

Chair: Ilaria Pavan (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

Francesca Cavarocchi (University of Florence), *Lost in Transition: postwar Italy facing claims for cultural objects by its former colonies*

Simona Troilo (University of L'Aquila), *The Slow Restitution. The return of colonial artifacts in Republican Italy*

Beatrice Falcucci (University of L'Aquila), *The Colonial Museum in Rome and Requests for Repatriation: the Libyan case*

16.30–17.00

A chat with the artists

Exhibition *The UnArchivable. Colonial roots and decolonial ways*, KunstRaum Goethe-Institut (Foyer)

17.00–17.30

Afternoon coffee/tea [for speakers & chairs]

17.30–19.00

Final Roundtable: Italy's Post-Fascist & Post-Colonial Memory Through Material Culture

Chair: Bianca Gaudenzi (DHI Rome/Konstanz/Cambridge)

Valeria Deplano (University of Cagliari)

Donata Levi (University of Udine)

Igiaba Scego (writer)

Emanuele Pellegrini (IMT Lucca)

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar (University of Macerata)

19.00–19.30

Concluding remarks

Bianca Gaudenzi (DHI Rome/Konstanz/Cambridge)

Lutz Klinkhammer (Vice-Director, DHI Rome)

Martin Baumeister (Director, DHI Rome)

19.30

End of the conference