



The Restitution Dialogues: Exploring the Vatican Archives

DATE: January 18, 2023

TIME: 12:00 noon, Toronto time [5:00 pm in London; 6:00 pm in Bonn; 7:00 pm in Tel Aviv]

DELIVERY METHOD: Online, via Zoom

DURATION: 2 hours

REGISTRATION LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8SWI52kAQ1SR2PQhvF_2Wg

The Vatican Archives in Rome house tens of thousands of Indigenous items, many from Canada. In light of the Church's role in Canada's residential schools and the larger global conversation about cultural loss and the return of colonial-era cultural property, pointed questions are being asked about the return of Indigenous cultural items to their communities. In this instalment of the Restitution Dialogues, we seek to further the discussion of these important questions by exploring the history of the Vatican collection and locating that history in the larger context of debates and practices concerning cultural loss, transfer, and return. The panel will discuss items such as the broader impact of the contemporary 'restitution revolution', the nature and provenance of Indigenous material in the Vatican collection, institutional best practices in restitution and repatriation, and the cultural impact of return and renewal.

This conference is part of the ongoing "Restitution Dialogues" conference series and also serves as the closing session of the joint class of the Universities of Tel Aviv and Bonn entitled "Restitution of Nazi-Looted Art in Comparative Perspectives" (part of the winter semester).

Speakers:

- **Gloria Bell**, Assistant Professor, Art History & Communication Studies, McGill University
- **Leora Bilsky**, Professor of Law and Head of Minerva Center for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University
- **Alexander Herman**, Director, Institute of Art & Law
- **Mayo Moran**, Provost & Vice-Chancellor, Trinity College, Professor of La\$w, University of Toronto

- **Lou-Ann Neel**, Kwakwaka'wakw artist
- **Jennifer Orange**, Assistant Professor, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University
- **Jacquetta Swift**, Repatriation Manager at the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.
- **Matthias Weller**, Professor for Civil Law, Art and Cultural Property Law, Director of the Institute for German and International Civil Procedural Law, University of Bonn

Special thanks from Matthias Weller for sharing this conference with the joint class of Tel Aviv and Bonn Universities in the Winter Semester 2022/2023, a project co-funded by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media.

