

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

.....  
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  
info-event@dhi-roma.it  
www.dhi-roma.it  
www.maxweberstiftung.de

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 a large American flag and is surrounded by a crowd of people. The scene is set in a city street with buildings in the background.

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