The war against culture and the battle to save it

The destruction of culture - of buildings, books, and art - is often not an accidental consequence of conflict. It is often used as a tool of war - a conscientious strategy to destroy the collective memory and identity of a people. This new documentary, based on the book by architecture critic Robert Bevan, offers stories of resistance, of heritage protection and rebuilding. Most importantly, it asks the viewer a vital question of our time: "How can we save the story of who we are?"

Discussion Panel

Tim Slade's films have screened throughout North and South America, the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand on television, at film festivals, and theatrically. He has directed documentaries such as the feature length '4', which won a Gold Plaque at the Chicago HUGO Television Awards, and was nominated for awards at the Banff World Television Festival, the International Documentary Association Awards, and the Australian Film Institute Awards. Other documentary films include 'Blank Canvas' and 'Musical Renegades' and the short dramas 'Every Other Weekend' and 'I Was Robert Mitchum'. His films have screened at more than 70 international film festivals. He studied film at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales.

András Riedlmayer directs the Documentation Center of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University. A specialist in the history, art and cultures of the Ottoman Empire, he has spent much of the past 25 years documenting the destruction of cultural heritage in the Balkan wars of the 1990s. He has testified about his findings before the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the war crimes trials of Slobodan Milošević and more than a dozen other indictees. In 2006, he was an expert witness in the genocide case brought by Bosnia against Serbia before the International Court of Justice. He has also been active in initiatives to recover and rebuild libraries and archival collections and built heritage lost or damaged in the Balkan wars of the 1990s. His work is situated at the nexus between the protection of cultural heritage and human rights in time of armed conflict and the legal and practical challenges of bringing to justice those responsible for crimes against humanity and crimes against culture.

Leigh Swigart is Director of Programs in International Justice and Society at the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University. She oversees the Brandeis Institute for International Judges, the only regular event convening members of the international judiciary across a wide spectrum of geographic and subject matter jurisdictions. She also organizes the Brandeis Judicial Colloquia series, which brings together international and national judges for dialogue about the growing intersections between their spheres of work. Swigart is the co-author, with Center Director Daniel Terris and Cesare Romano, of The International Judge: An Introduction to the Man and Women Who Decide the World’s Cases (2007, Brandeis University Press and Oxford University Press).

Kristin Parker is a heritage professional who has worked for over 17 years within museums, with a specialty in archives, collections management and preservation. She is certified in First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis through the International Center for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property - ICCROM (Rome, IT) and the Smithsonian Institution (DC, USA). She has also completed coursework related to the cultural impact of looting, through the Association for Research into Crimes Against Art - ARCA (Amelia, IT).

Her current research focus relates to preserving the personal records of displaced populations and incorporating cultural heritage recovery into the humanitarian cluster system. She has worked at the Rose Art Museum since 2010 as Collections Manager, then Deputy Director. In August 2016, she was named Interim Director of the museum.
# THE DESTRUCTION OF MEMORY

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<th>Time Phase</th>
<th>What you can do...</th>
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Donate to: The Sustainability Guild, Roxbury, MA [http://sustainabilityguild.com/](http://sustainabilityguild.com/)
Donate to the Lawyers’ Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation [http://www.culturalheritagemlaw.org/donate](http://www.culturalheritagemlaw.org/donate)
Contact: Kristin Parker (Rose Art Museum) with your questions and interests! kparker1@brandeis.edu |
| **1 day** | Familiarize yourself with preservation of cultural heritage during conflict...
Explore: #culturalcannotwait #culturalunder threat hashtags
Explore: Targeting History and Memory: The ICTY and the investigation...
[http://heritage.sense-agency.com](http://heritage.sense-agency.com)
Explore: Public organizations responsible for heritage
Read: Bevan, Robert. *Destruction of Memory*
Read: The Aleppo Project Design Lab Report, Brandeis
https://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/news/2016/Nov.1.html
Read/Watch: AAAS Geospatial Technologies Project
[http://www.aaas.org/geotech/culturalheritage](http://www.aaas.org/geotech/culturalheritage)
[http://projectrowhouses.org/](http://projectrowhouses.org/)

| **1 month** | Take a course: ICCROM courses [http://www.iccrom.org/course-announcements/](http://www.iccrom.org/course-announcements/)
Donate your time to local cultural organizations.
Consider your own histories and think of ways to preserve them.
Consider histories of the voiceless and how to amplify them. |
| **1 year** | Consider an internship at ICCROM
Deadline for 2018 application is 31 March 2017: [http://www.iccrom.org/internships/](http://www.iccrom.org/internships/)
Get to know the diverse stories of your friends and family! |
| **One Main Take Away** | Access to cultural heritage, in all its diverse forms, is a human right. It is our job to protect our stories and cultural practices, in perpetuity. |