

CALL FOR PAPERS

2020 Transatlantic Cultural Property Crime Symposium

Combatting Cultural Property Crime: Innovations on the Intersection of Law and Cultural Property Crime

July 13 – 14, 2020 | The Octagon, Queen Mary University London

The Criminal Justice Center at Queen Mary University London, the Department of Sociology at the University of Virginia, the Social Sciences Division at Mount Saint Mary College, and the Centre for Heritage at the University of Kent are organizing a symposium on new directions in combatting cultural property crime. The 2020 Symposium will explore innovative approaches to using and operating within and around both criminal law and civil law in the detection, investigation, and restitution of illicit cultural property. In particular, it seeks to examine what both areas of law bring to the table to prevent cultural property crime from occurring, hold offenders responsible before the law, and to return objects to their rightful owners and/or places of origin. To achieve this, the symposium contributions will explore what the normative tensions and intersections between the two areas of law are, as well as where they complement each other in the field. Additionally, the 2020 Symposium aims at shedding light on how various stakeholders work within the confines of current laws in innovative ways to achieve objectives in preventing and investigating cultural property crime and to facilitate the return of stolen items. While this area of criminal law has been explored and its shortcomings highlighted, this symposium endeavours to find unique solutions by using the powers of both civil and criminal law to achieve a higher level of cultural property protection as well as justice for victims.

Context

Whether focusing on archaeological looting, fine art theft, art forgery, or vandalism of cultural property or cultural heritage sites, the law remains a central focus, often falling short in the objectives of preventing these crimes in the first place or in working to meaningfully rectify the damage. In part this is due to the transnational nature of these crimes, as well as the lucrative international art market. Recently, significant attention has been placed particularly on the issue of trafficking, as publicly available sources show a growing trend in cultural property trafficking and its long-lasting effects. While national and international responses are improving, law enforcement resources as well as systematic interception, investigation, and prosecution are still lacking. Thus, it is important to move the focus away from traditional approaches using solely law enforcement and the criminal law to other areas of law such as civil law that could support efforts to fight cultural property crime and mitigate its effects as well as develop more effective innovative operational strategies.

We therefore invite abstract submissions for papers to present at the 2020 Transatlantic Cultural Property Crime Symposium.

Potential topics to consider include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- Intersections between the civil and criminal legal approaches
- Tensions and overlaps between the civil, public, and criminal arenas as related to cultural property
- Connections between formal legal processes and alternative dispute resolution in handling cases involving illicit cultural property
- Ethical issues related to cultural property law
- Effective uses of national, transnational, and international law
- Innovative roles of law enforcement on the local, national, and international stages

Submissions must include:

- (1) Paper title and abstract – 250-500 words
- (2) Short CV – 250-500 words

Deadline for Submission: 12AM GMT on February 15, 2020

Please direct all questions and submissions via email to: tcpcsymposium@gmail.com

NOTE: All submission materials, papers, and presentations must be made in English.

The symposium proceedings will be published as an edited volume. If selected to present, a complete paper will be required by the 15th of September 2020, two months after the end of the symposium for inclusion in the proceedings.

For more information on the Symposium, updates on guest speakers and the categories for submission, please see www.tcpcsymposium.com.

About the Transatlantic Cultural Property Crime Symposium

The TCPCS is a biannual event organized jointly by UK and US institutions. It aims at fostering dialogue between different stakeholders in this area, including law enforcement, journalists, legal professionals, and scholars with various specialties, such as criminology, sociology, law, archaeology, museum studies, political science, and economics. It endeavors to create a deeper understanding of the work currently taking place in the area, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing new directions for future research and action involving cultural property crime.

For years, various stakeholders have recognized the importance of combatting cultural property crime, but multidisciplinary collaboration is still one of the major challenges in the field, concerning both research and practice. Transatlantic cooperation between European and North American institutions in particular is rare. This symposium seeks provide a small contribution to remedying this situation by addressing new developments in the academic and practitioner efforts around preventing cultural property crime across multiple areas of work and disciplines.