

Human (In)Security

organised by the



Hosted within the XV International Meeting on Cultural Rights



Unifor

PPGD

Programa de
Pós-Graduação em
Direito Constitucional

GEPDC

Grupo de estudos
e pesquisas em
Direitos Culturais

September 2, 2026
University of Fortaleza, Brazil

The first conference of the Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights brings together scholars from different regions and legal traditions to explore how contemporary forms of human insecurity are reshaping the enjoyment and protection of cultural rights. From conflict, displacement and climate change to restrictions on civic space and technological transformation, the conference examines both the threats facing cultural rights and their potential to foster dignity, resilience, participation and peace. In line with the Alliance's mission, it creates a global space for exchanging perspectives, connecting research and practice, and advancing shared responses to emerging cultural rights challenges.

With speakers from



UnitelmaSapienza
University of Rome
Department of Law and Digital Society



**Universidade
de Fortaleza**



**Brunel
University
London**



Conference Programme

Fortaleza Time

09:00-09:15

Opening Remarks

Sara Di Luca. Executive Manager, Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights.

09:15-11:00

Panel I

Territory, Displacement and Cultural Rights under Threat

Janet Blake. Director of the Persian Garden Institute for Living Heritage and retired Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Shahid Beheshti (Iran).

Oleksandr Butsenko. Senior Researcher, National Academy of Arts of Ukraine; Counsellor, Institute for Cultural Research (Ukraine).

Lucía Carolina Colombato. Professor and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences, National University of La Pampa (Argentina).

Catherine Grant. Associate Professor of Music Studies, Griffith University (Australia).

Allan Carlos Moreira Magalhães. Professor of Law, Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

Ezequiel Valicenti. Dean of the School of Law, National University of the Center (Argentina).

Moderator - Marina Cartaxo. Lawyer and Professor of Law, University of Fortaleza (Brazil).

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-12:15

Panel II

State of Cultural Rights Worldwide

Alexandra Xanthaki. United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and Professor of Law, Brunel University London (United Kingdom).

12:15-13:45

Networking Lunch

13:45-15:30

Panel III

Constitutional Frameworks and Cultural Pluralism

Maiza Aissa. Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Sciences, University of Algiers 1 (Algeria).

Raúl Ávila Ortiz. Professor of Law, Center for Legal-Political Research, Autonomous University of Tlaxcala (Mexico).

Francisco Humberto Cunha Filho. Professor of Cultural Rights and Constitutional Law, University of Fortaleza (Brazil).

Ghazi Gherairi. Professor of Public Law and Political Science, University of Carthage (Tunisia).

Moderator - Pier Luigi Petrillo. Professor of Comparative Public Law, UnitelmaSapienza (Italy).

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:15

Panel IV

Science, Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Cultural Insecurities

Yvonne Donders. Professor of International Human Rights, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Maria Helena Japiassu Marinho de Macedo. Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of Brazil to the Holy See. PhD candidate in Law, Federal University of Paraná (Brazil).

Marcos Wachowicz. Professor of Law, Federal University of Paraná (Brazil).

Moderator - Rodrigo Vieira Costa. Professor of Law, Federal Rural University of the Semi-Arid Region (Brazil).

17:15-17:30

Closing Remarks

Francisco Humberto Cunha Filho. Professor of Cultural Rights and Constitutional Law, University of Fortaleza (Brazil).

Opening Remarks

Sara Di Luca

Executive Manager of the Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights, where she coordinates the Alliance's activities, working groups and international initiatives. She is also International Relations and Outreach Coordinator at the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law at UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome, and North America Membership and Advocacy Coordinator at the Climate Heritage Network. Her work focuses on intangible cultural heritage and climate change, with a professional profile at the intersection of ICH safeguarding, youth engagement and advocacy.

Panel I - Territory, Displacement and Cultural Rights under Threat

Janet Blake

Cultural Rights and the Destruction of Iran's Cultural Heritage in the Ramadan War - Seeking Remedies and Preventing Future Violations

Janet Blake, OBE, is Director of the Persian Garden Institute for Living Heritage (an NGO accredited under UNESCO's 2003 Convention) and retired Professor of Human Rights Law at Shahid Beheshti University (Tehran). Having been involved in developing, drafting and implementing UNESCO's 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention since 1999 she continues to work as a Global Facilitator for UNESCO's Capacity-building under the Convention, and provides safeguarding and policy-making advice at governmental level. She has been a member of Cultural Heritage Law Committees of the International Law Association since 2012 and is on the editorial boards of two leading international heritage journals.

Oleksandr Butsenko

Why Urgent Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage Protects Cultural Rights

Senior researcher at the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, counsellor at the Institute for Cultural Research, director of the NGO Development Centre "Democracy through Culture", accredited to UNESCO, head of the Board of the Foundation "Souspilnist" - National Media Club of Ukraine. UNESCO ICH facilitator, expert for the Council of Europe on cultural policies, cultural heritage and development strategies.

Co-author of Long-term Strategy for Cultural Development of Ukraine (2016); Draft Law "On safeguarding of ICH" (2026). Literary translator from English and Spanish, member of Writers' Union of Ukraine.

Lucia Carolina Colombato

Deterritorialization and Cultural Integrity: Standards from the Inter-American Human Rights System

PhD in Law (UNCuyo), Master's in Social and Cultural Studies (UNLPam), Specialist in Civil Law and Lawyer (UNLP). She is a Researcher with the Group for Studies on Cultural Rights in Argentina, a Tenured Full Professor, and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences at the National University of La Pampa, Argentina.

Catherine Grant

Intersections between the sustainability of intangible cultural practices and forced displacement: A project-based exploration of cultural rights considerations

Associate Professor in Music Studies at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Australia. Catherine's work explores the intersection of cultural sustainability, human rights, and matters of social justice, with a focus on intangible cultural practices. She led the international project "Sounding Good" (2020-2024), which brought together artists from five continents to explore cultural sustainability and social justice concerns. Currently, Catherine leads a Worldwide Universities Network project (2026-2027), involving an international team of 30 researchers and examining how intangible cultural practices are disrupted, sustained and transformed in contexts of forced displacement.

Allan Magalhães

Indigenous Cultural Rights and Human (In)security: The Socioenvironmental Impacts of Infrastructure Projects in the Brazilian Amazon

Professor in the Graduate Program (Master's and Ph.D.) in Law at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO). Professor at the State University of Amazonas (UEA). Ph.D. in Constitutional Law (UNIFOR).

Co-leader Researcher at the Study and Research Group on Cultural Rights (GEPDC/PPGD/UNIFOR) and Researcher at the Institutions and Public Policy Research Group (GIIPP-PPGD/UNIRIO).

Ezequiel Valicenti

Artistic Freedom, the Right to Protest and Human (In)Security: Contributions from Cultural Rights

Dean of the School of Law at the National University of the Center. He is a member of the Center for the Study of Art and Literature at that law school and the Argentine Cultural Rights Study Group. He is the author of *The Author in the Contract* (2017) and co-author of the *Manual of Cultural Rights* (2026). He regularly publishes articles in academic journals and in edited volumes on topics such as cultural rights, copyright, and contract law, among other areas.

Marina Cartaxo (Moderator)

Lawyer and law graduate of the University of Fortaleza. She earned both her Master's and Doctoral degrees through the Graduate Program in Constitutional Law at the University of Fortaleza. She has been a law professor at Unifor for 15 years, teaching Constitutional and International Law, with a research focus on issues involving migration policies and human rights.

Panel II - State of Cultural Rights Worldwide

Alexandra Xanthaki

State of Cultural Rights Worldwide

United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and Professor of Law at Brunel University London, where she is Director of Research at Brunel Law School. She is a leading expert in international human rights law, with particular expertise in the rights of Indigenous Peoples and minorities, cultural rights, cultural diversity and cultural heritage. Among her publications, her monograph *Indigenous Rights and United Nations Standards: Self-determination, Culture and Land* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) is considered a reference work in the field.

Before taking up her UN mandate, she worked closely with several United Nations mandates and advised States on human rights issues. She is also the founder of the award-winning Athens Refugee Project, through which students have volunteered with refugee civil society organisations since 2016.

Panel III - Constitutional Frameworks and Cultural Pluralism

Maiza Aissa

Protection of Cultural Rights in Algerian Legislation and Its Impact on Enhancing Human Security

Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Sciences at the University of Algiers 1 and Professor of Family Law. His work focuses on family law, human rights and dialogue, international law, and cultural rights. His research includes comparative analysis of Islamic jurisprudence and Algerian family law, including questions of inheritance.

Raúl Ávila Ortiz

Liberal and Intercultural Communalism as a Constitutional Framework for Human Security and Indigenous Cultural Rights in Mexico

PhD in Law from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, 1995. Master of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, 1998.. Full-time scholar since 1995. He is the author of *El Derecho Cultural en México*, published by UNAM and Miguel Ángel Porrúa in 2000. He was the creator and director of the first Mexican academic journal on cultural rights, entitled: "Derecho y Cultura", as well as the founder of the Mexican Academy on Law, Education, and Culture (1999-present).

She has published several books and articles (in English and Persian) including *International Cultural Heritage Law* (2015) and *UNESCO's 2003 Intangible Heritage Convention – A Commentary* (2020), both published by Oxford University Press, and *Practical Guide to UNESCO's 2003 Intangible Heritage Convention* published in 2022 by Edward Elgar (UK).

Francisco Humberto Cunha Filho

Legal Uncertainty in the Legal Framework Governing Cultural Rights

Full Professor in the Graduate Program in Constitutional Law at the University of Fortaleza, where he leads the Study and Research Group on Cultural Rights. Visiting Professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca. Member of the Academic Board of the Ph.D. in Law at the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. Visiting Professor at the University of Le Havre, France.

Member of the Academic Board of the Ph.D. in Law at the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. Visiting Professor at the University of Le Havre, France. Member of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law at UnitelmaSapienza. Member of the Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights. Senior Federal Attorney. Honorary President of the Brazilian Institute of Cultural Rights.

Ghazi Gherairi

The Constitutionalization of Cultural Rights in Tunisia

Tunisian legal scholar, academic, and diplomat. From 2016 to 2022, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Tunisia to UNESCO and to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). He teaches public law and political science at the University of Carthage, the Diplomatic Institute, and the Tunis School of Politics. An author of numerous books and articles on Tunisian public law, international law, and cultural heritage law, he currently heads the "Norms, Culture, and Heritage" research group at the University of Carthage. He has served as an expert for various international organizations, as Vice-President of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, and as Chair of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations. He is also a co-founding member of the Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights (Rome, November 2025).

Pier Luigi Petrillo (Moderator)

Chair Holder of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law at UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome, Full Professor of Comparative Public Law and Comparative Cultural Heritage Law, and Director of the School of Advanced Studies in Cultures, Politics and Democracy (Cu.Po.De.).

He has over fifteen years of experience in UNESCO-related matters, with expertise in the 2003 Convention, cultural rights, community participation and safeguarding policies. He is a member of UNESCO's Global Facilitator Network and served in 2022 as President of the Body of World Experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage. He is the author of *The Legal Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage. A Comparative Perspective* (Springer, 2018) and *Intangible Cultural Heritage Law in the Digital Era* (Routledge, forthcoming).

Panel IV - Science, Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Cultural Insecurities

Yvonne Donders

Where the Human Right to Science Meets Cultural Heritage

Professor of International Human Rights at the Department of International and European Law at the University of Amsterdam. She is one of the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the University's Research Priority Area "Shaping Interfaces Between Science and the Public".

She is also an elected member of the UN Human Rights Committee. She is currently a member (and former Chair) of the Steering Committee of the Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research (NNHRR) and a member of the Editorial Board and Executive Editor of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights (NQHR).

Maria Helena Japiassu Marinho de Macedo

Rethinking Copyright in the Age of Cultural Diversity and Digital Platforms

Lawyer and career civil servant at Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2007. Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of Brazil to the Holy See. PhD candidate in Law at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) and Visiting Researcher at the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law, UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome. Holds postgraduate qualifications in Intellectual Property (UCAM), Arts Management and Fundraising (Boston University), Museums, Galleries and Collections (Universidade Positivo), and International Economic Negotiations (Santiago Dantas Graduate Program – PUC-SP/UNICAMP/UNESP), as well as a CopyrightX certificate (Harvard University).

Member of the Brazilian Institute of Cultural Rights (IBDCult) and the Legal Affairs Committee (LEAC) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Marcos Wachowicz

Generative Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Diversity, and Human Security

Professor of Law at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), Brazil, and Coordinator of the Study Group on Copyright and Industrial Law (GEDAI/UFPR). His research focuses on copyright, intellectual property, cultural rights, digital law, artificial intelligence, and the information society. He has extensive experience in teaching, research, academic publishing, and the coordination of international projects and conferences. His current work examines the relationship between emerging technologies, cultural diversity, access to knowledge, digital platforms, and public policies for the protection and promotion of cultural rights.

Rodrigo Vieira Costa (Moderator)

Professor and Ph.D. at the Federal Rural University of the Semi-Arid Region (UFERSA). Lead Researcher of the Digital Law and Cultural Rights Research Group (DIGICult). Member of the National Commission for Cultural Incentives of Brazil's Ministry of Culture (CNIC/MinC). Co-founder of the Brazilian Institute of Cultural Rights (IBDCult).

CULTURAL RIGHTS. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS. SHARED ACTION.

The Global Universities Alliance for Cultural Rights connects university professors committed to advancing cultural rights through research, education, community engagement and advocacy.

20 MEMBERS · 1 OBSERVER · 13 COUNTRIES · 5 CONTINENTS

OUR MISSION

To create a global space where knowledge, perspectives and practices come together to strengthen cultural rights and turn research into action.

HOW WE DO IT

We aim to connect expertise across borders through joint research, education, exchange, community engagement and policy dialogue.

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Membership is open to university professors actively engaged in cultural rights. Cultural rights professionals outside academia may apply for **Observer Status** and actively participate in Working Groups. Early-career researchers from member universities are also welcome to join the **Working Groups**.

Be part of a growing global community shaping the future of cultural rights.



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