



Call for Papers

CAPTURED BY THE PAST: MONUMENTS. CONFLICTS. LAW

Online workshop: 21 January 2022

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2021

When the past is contested, the monuments are the first to fall. The memorial fever that started in Europe at the end of 1980s with the dismantling of communist symbols continues with the removal of monuments of historical figures tied to racial discrimination, slavery, and colonialism. Although these symbols all have different political contexts and belong to different historical epochs, the heated debates over them reflect a tectonic shift in historical narratives which released memories that were hitherto frozen. In some cases, profound disagreements about the monuments and the memorial policy behind them can cause a confrontation not only within one society but also between states (the so-called, ‘memory wars’).

The workshop ‘CAPTURED BY THE PAST: MONUMENTS. CONFLICTS. LAW’ aims to map the controversies around such monuments, as well as the memory conflicts and ‘memory wars’ of which these monuments are the symbols. Over the centuries, totalitarian regimes removed monuments they did not agree with. Should democracies then follow this path?

The organizers welcome research papers on any of the following topics:

- Monuments from the cultural heritage and human rights perspectives: is there a right to destroy?
- Monuments as government speech: what are the limits?
- Monuments and the rule of law: what are the legal standards for memory policies and public commemorative practices in a democracy?

The workshop is organized within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research project ‘To Destroy or to Preserve? Monuments, Law and Democracy in Europe’ (MELoDYE*) hosted by Ghent University.

How to apply

Scholars are invited to submit paper proposals (500–800 words) by 25 September 2021 to Alina.Cherviatsova@UGent.be.

Each proposal must include a short bio (max 200 words). Successful applicants will be notified by 5 October 2021.

The deadline for submitting drafts of papers (8.000-10.000 words) to be discussed during the workshop is 15 January 2022. Final papers are due 15 March 2022.

Publication

The convenors will promote the publication of a revised version of the papers in a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal.

Convenors

Dr Alina Cherviatsova, Senior Researcher and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context, Human Rights Centre, Ghent University

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