



The Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies La Société canadienne des études mésopotamiennes

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THE RONALD MORTON SMITH MEMORIAL LECTURE

A free public lecture

Heritage Places: Memory, Identity, and Belonging in Iraq

Dr Helen Malko

Columbia University



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This talk addresses the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq by the so-called Islamic State in the context of cultural genocide, a term first introduced by Raphael Lemkin in 1944. Cultural heritage is not static nor frozen in time, it is rather a living and evolving cultural process of meanings and memory making and remaking. Its destruction, therefore, is an attack on memory, identity, and the sense of belonging felt by local communities. While the academic literature has focused on the legal, economic, political, and international aspects of this destruction, the implications of the annihilation of heritage places for the local communities of Mosul and the people of Iraq remain absent. By examining various case studies, this paper argues that Iraq's 'global heritage', both monotheistic and pre-monotheistic, is also *local*, and that its destruction has a direct cultural and psychological impact on the local population.

Wednesday, 7 November 2018, 7:00 pm
Earth Sciences Auditorium B142, 5 Bancroft Avenue, University of Toronto, St. George Campus

Accessible entrance and washrooms are available. If you have an accommodation need please contact CSMS and we will do our best to make appropriate arrangements.