



## **CULTURAL RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS** **Contemporary Challenges and Perspectives**

**Conference in the context of MED9**

**Monday 16 September 2024, 9:00 – 14:30 EEST**  
**University of Cyprus – University House “Anastasios G. Leventis”, B108**

**8:30**      **Registration**

**9:15**      **Welcome Address and Opening Remarks**

**Professor Tasos Christofides**

Rector, University of Cyprus

**Catherine Magnant**

Head of Unit (EAC.D.1), Cultural Policy, European Commission

**Dr Vasiliki Kassianidou**

Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus

**9:45**      **Keynote Speech**

***Cultural Rights in Times of Crisis***

**Professor Alexandra Xanthaki**

United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights  
Brunel University London

**10:30**      **Safeguarding Cultural Rights in Practice**

***The Challenges of Promoting Cultural Rights in the Arab Region***

**Abdullah Alkafri**

Executive Director of Ettijahat - Independent Culture

***Cultural Rights in Times of Crisis: Protecting the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus***

**Dr Giorgos Georgiou**

Director, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

*In collaboration with:*



Organisation  
for European  
Programmes  
and Cultural  
Relations



University  
of Cyprus

**11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:30 Deliberations and Panel discussion**

Coordination:

**Aristotelis Constantinides**

Associate Professor of International Law and Human Rights  
Department of Law, University of Cyprus

***From the Right to Science as an Epistemic-Cultural Human Right to the Right to Expertise***

**Professor Michela Massimi**

Chair of Philosophy of Science, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

***Building or de-escalating Conflicts through History Writing and Teaching***  
**Dragana Korljan**

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

***A Cultural Rights Toolkit for Cities and Local Governments***

**Jordi Pascual**

UCLG, Coordinator, Culture Committee

***Silencing Artistic Freedom and Repressing Cultural Rights***

**Ole Reitov**

Chair Freemuse / UNESCO Expert

**12:50 Discussion, Questions & Answers**

**13:30 Lunch**

**14:30 End of Conference**

*In collaboration with:*

## Professor Alexandra Xanthaki

United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights  
Brunel University London



**Alexandra Xanthaki** is the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. She is a Professor of Laws at Brunel University London, United Kingdom, and a member of Athens Bar. Well-known for her work on the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, Alexandra's publications vary from focusing on issues related to cultural diversity, cultural heritage, balancing cultural rights with other rights and interests, and multicultural aspects of international human rights law. She has completed a Law degree in Athens, a master's degree in "Human Rights and Emergency Law" at Queen's University, Belfast, and a doctorate from Keele University, UK.

## Abdullah Alkafri

Executive Director of Ettijahat - Independent Culture

**Abdullah Alkafri** is a playwright and theatre director. He also works as a trainer, strategic planner, designer for arts intervention initiatives and has worked with many leading cultural organisations in Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and Belgium. He has been a member of the steering committee of the 8th World Summit on Arts and Culture. Abdullah is a founding member and executive director of Ettijahat – Independent Culture. Ettijahat is a cultural organization founded at the end of 2011. Ettijahat seeks to activate and render the role of independent culture and arts more positive, in the process of cultural and social change. Alkafri also teaches MA Theatre at l'Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut, where he earned a PhD in Performing Arts in 2022.



## Dr Giorgos Georgiou

Director, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus



**Dr Giorgos Georgiou** is the Director of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus. He received his B.A. in History and Archaeology from the University of Athens and his PhD in Archaeology from the University of Cyprus. His duties at the Department of Antiquities include the implementation and amendments of the Antiquities legislation, management of monuments, archaeological sites and museums, as well as excavations in Cyprus. He has directed excavations at more than 30 sites, published articles and books, and lectured on matters of Cypriot archaeology. His main research interests concern Cypriot civilization from the 3rd to the 1st millennium BC.

## Aristotelis Constantinides

Associate Professor of International Law and Human Rights  
Department of Law, University of Cyprus

**Aristoteles Constantinides** is an Associate Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus. He received his PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has held visiting positions at the Universities of Amsterdam, Vienna, Grenoble Alpes, McGill and Kaunas. From 2014 to 2021, he was an advisor to the President of Cyprus in the talks for the settlement of the Cyprus problem. He actively engages with governmental and non-governmental actors in various activities promoting human rights in Cyprus. His research interests and publications include international human rights law, international law in domestic courts, the law of the United Nations, statehood and recognition, and the Cyprus problem. In 2017, he received the Teaching Excellence Award of the University of Cyprus.



### Professor Michela Massimi

Chair of Philosophy of Science, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK



**Michela Massimi** is a Professor of Philosophy of Science in the Department of Philosophy, at the University of Edinburgh. She works in the area of history and philosophy of science. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Astronomical Society, and an elected member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and Academia Europaea. She has received the Royal Society's Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture in 2017 for her interdisciplinary work. Her monograph *Perspectival Realism* has received the 2023 Lakatos Award. From 2015 to 2019 she was the Vice-President of the European Philosophy of Science Association, and currently, she serves as President (2023-24) of the Philosophy of Science Association.

### Dragana Korljan

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Dragana Korljan** is a Coordinator of the Justice, Protection and Social Right Unit in the Special Procedures Branch at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is advising Special Procedures mandates, dealing with social, cultural and economic rights such as the right to education or cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights related mandates, such as freedom of expression and transitional justice. With an academic background in law, she has worked with several international organizations, which enabled her to gain an overall view of human rights and develop sound knowledge of human rights implementation at international and national levels. Before joining OHCHR in 2005, she worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of then Yugoslavia.



### Jordi Pascual

UCLG, Coordinator, Culture Committee



**Jordi Pascual** is the coordinator of the Committee on Culture of the World Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The work of the Committee is based on Culture 21 Actions, a complete cultural rights-based toolkit on culture in sustainable cities. Jordi Pascual is involved in the global campaign #culture2030goal that advocates for a Culture Goal in the SDGs. He holds a PhD on cultural rights in sustainable development from the University of Girona and teaches cultural rights and globalization at the Open University of Catalonia.

### Ole Reitov

Chair Freemuse / UNESCO Expert

**Ole Reitov** is a leading global advocate for and defender of artistic freedom and cultural rights, speaker, moderator, journalist, and independent consultant. In 1999, he co-founded Freemuse, the world's leading organisation defending artistic freedom. He acted as Freemuse Executive Director between 2013-2017 and is currently the organization's chairperson. He has represented Freemuse in the UN Human Rights Council and served as an expert consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed. He was the first person to be appointed as 2005 UNESCO Convention Expert on artistic freedom in 2015. He has published several articles and reports on censorship and artistic freedom and provided expertise to organisations such as IFACCA, EUNIC, IFA and Swedish Arts Council.

