



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST
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Cultural Heritage, Human Rights, and Community Sustainability: Turkey's Weaponization of Cultural Heritage Against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox Community.

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 3:00 pm, Hellenic Link-Midwest will present Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou in an online lecture titled: "*Cultural Heritage, Human Rights, and Community Sustainability: Turkey's Weaponization of Cultural Heritage Against the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox Community.*" This lecture is supported by the Hellenic Foundation, Chicago.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88387780854>

Further information on how to join this webinar lecture is provided on page 2.

The twin events of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the centennial of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey provide an opportune, urgent moment for considering the application of a universal human rights framework to cultural heritage protections, most especially with regard to the sustainability of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodoxy community of Turkey (EPGOCT). Although a broad range of international human rights instruments has been developed to address the original deficits in the UDHR regarding the linkages between cultural heritage protection and the sustainability of religious, ethnic, and linguistic minority populations, the Turkish state has architected a cultural heritage policy towards the EPGOCT that functions as a multi-purpose weapon—appropriation, expropriation, erasure, destruction—deployed towards the goal of national homogenization and unsustainability of the EPGOCT. This talk will introduce the linkages between university human rights, cultural heritage rights, and minority communities as a framework for analyzing Turkey's use of cultural heritage policy towards the EPGOCT over the past century. I explore Turkey's "Hagia Sophia fetish" as part of the broader set of tools targeting the tangible and intangible heritage of the EPGOCT, and I suggest that the case of the EPGOCT is paradigmatic and consequential for understanding the vulnerability of the country's other minority communities. I close with some suggestions for efficacious action that combines the work of diplomats, heritage experts, and human rights practitioners, that improves the agency of the EPGOCT, towards improved outcomes in this case and comparative cases.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou is Visiting Professor in the International Studies Program at Boston College, and an affiliated faculty member of the Islamic Civilizations and Societies Program as well as the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life. Her research interests and policy work focus on the intersections of geopolitics, religion, and human rights, with particular focus on the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. Prodromou served a diplomatic appointment on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (2004-2012), and she was a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Religion & Foreign Policy Working Group (2011-2015). She is co-editor of two volumes, *Eastern Orthodox Christianity and American Higher Education: Theological, Historical, and Contemporary Reflections*, and *Thinking through Faith: Perspectives from Orthodox Christian Scholars*, and multiple book chapters, and is widely published in academic journals such as *Journal of World Christianity*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Orbis*, and *Survival*.

She sits on the editorial board of *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* and *The Journal of World Christianity*, and Co-Chairs the Orthodoxy, Politics, and International Relations Group of the International Orthodox Theological Association. Her policy and practitioner appointments include the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center (Non-Resident Senior Fellow), Religions for Peace (Co-President), and the Freedom of Religion or Belief Women's Alliance (Alliance Advisor). She was a member of the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Holy and Great Council at Crete in 2016.

Her current research focuses on two areas: religious geopolitics and typologies of power, with a case study of Russian influence-building through religious soft and sharp power; and, the effects of cultural heritage policy on institutional religious freedom and religious pluralism, with comparative case studies from the Near East.

Prodromou has taught at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, where she was the founding faculty director of the Initiative on Religion, Law, and Diplomacy; at Boston University; Princeton University; and, as an invited flying faculty member, at the College of Europe (Natolin campus). She earned a Ph.D. and an S.M. in political science from MIT, an M.A.L.D. from The Fletcher School at Tufts University, and a B.A. in history and international relations from Tufts University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude.

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DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING HLM'S ONLINE LECTURE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2024 AT 3:00 PM ON EITHER ZOOM OR FACEBOOK.

1) If you already have the Zoom application ("Zoom Client") installed on your machine, then you go through the following steps:

A. Click on the webinar link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88387780854>. A small "Launch Application" screen will appear. The screen will show the following: "Choose Other Application" and "Open Link" and "Cancel"

B. Click "Open Link"

A new screen will appear asking for your **email and name**.

If the system asks you to also provide the **Webinar ID**, enter the following: **883 8778 0854**

C. Once you enter the required information, click "Join Webinar"

Once you have joined the webinar, familiarize yourself with the set of buttons above or below the screen. One in particular, the "Q&A" button allows you to type questions for the speaker during or after the presentation.

2) If you don't have the Zoom application installed, clicking the above link will take you through an installation process first but since that is rather complicated, we recommend that you install Zoom first on your PC, laptop or tablet.

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<https://zoom.us/support/download>

Opening that link points to a download file (see down arrow pointing to the .exe file at the bottom of your screen) that you will have to accept (click on the "Keep" button) and then open (click on the file name) in order to download the Zoom client IF YOU ARE WORKING ON A PC OR LAPTOP.

IF YOU ARE WORKING ON A TABLET, the same page provides a link to **Apple Store** (button named "Download in App Store") for installation on iPad or to **Google Play** (for tablets other than iPad: in that case click on the "Download in Google Play" button)

Once you succeed installing Zoom (we recommend doing that before the event) then you can proceed with steps A, B, and C in the previous paragraph (1), right before the webinar, in order to attend.

3) If Zoom installation fails, either because you are running an old machine with an operating system that does not support Zoom (e.g. Windows Vista or any Windows OS earlier than Windows 7) or an earlier version of your browser, then you can instead attend the lecture that will also be **broadcast live on Facebook**. For that, please go to the Hellenic Link-Midwest Facebook page at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/helleniclinkmidwest>

at the scheduled time of the event and scroll down as needed until you see the live broadcast underway (it may be at the very top). In order to ask questions on Facebook enter them as a comment in the Comments section underneath or next to the live screen.