

# Mittagsgespräch

Francesca Coccolo

Debated provenance and power politics: Italian retrievals of works of art from Vienna after WW1

26. Februar 2020, Sektion Kunst und Kultur,  
Concordiaplatz 2, Saal „Oscar“, 12:00 c. t.

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## Debated provenance and power politics: Italian retrievals of works of art from Vienna after WW1

### Exposé

At the end of December 1918, and with a view to implementing the Villa Giusti Armistice of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918, the Italian High Command dispatched a military mission to Vienna. The mission's main tasks consisted of repatriating Italian and Austrian prisoners and retrieving war materials. Nevertheless, an opportunity soon became clear to its chief, General Segre, to pursue a large-scale retrieval of public and private artistic property brought to Vienna and other imperial cities not only during the war but also during Habsburg rule over Italy in the XIX century. Archival materials in Italy, Austria and France represent a unique opportunity as they allow us to observe WW1 displacements of collections and artefacts between Austria and Italy from multiple perspectives. We can contrast national narratives that have been built up, and observe the political opportunities seized during and after the conflict; opportunities that aimed at claiming back part of one country's cultural heritage in favour of the other's. On both sides of the Alps, fellow art historians, museum directors and civil servants such as Hans Tietze, Max Dvořák, Gustav Glück, Ettore Modigliani, Giuseppe Gerola, Gino Fogolari and many others, found themselves standing against each other, and supporting their respective countries, to either exploit or ward off the consequences of the war and the peace clauses.

Im Anschluss an den Vortrag werden Erfrischungen gereicht





Leere Bilderrahmen im italienischen Saal der Gemäldegalerie des Kunsthistorischen Museums Wien 1920 nach dem Abtransport von Bildern durch die italienische Militärkommission.  
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## Kurzbiografie

**Francesca** is Ph.D. candidate at the IMT School in Lucca and former visiting fellow at UniVie's Institut für Rechts- und Verfassungsgeschichte. From 2017-19 she worked with the Italian team of the HERA Project on Transfers of Cultural Property in the Alpe Adria Region, contributing to conference talks, papers and document entries on both WW2 and WW1 provenance issues. Displacements of artworks resulting from post-war settlements in Europe have been her focus starting with her MA dissertation in Venice, a thesis on Allied restitutions of cultural property to Italy after 1945. Her experience in the field includes the European Shoah Legacy Institute's Provenance research programmes, a training course by the Carabinieri Art Protection Squad and a traineeship at the Art Loss Register in London.

## Vorschau

### **Auf den Spuren der Gerechtigkeit**

**Rainer Schuster (München) & Leonhard Weidinger (Wien)** sprechen zu **Geschichte, Kunstgeschichte und Restitution von Karl Spitzwegs Gemälde „Iustitia“.**

23. März 2020, Aula am Campus der Universität Wien, Hof 1.11, 18:30.

Eine Veranstaltung der Kommission für Provenienzforschung in Kooperation mit dem Institut für Zeitgeschichte der Universität Wien, unterstützt von NEUMEISTER. Münchener Kunstauktionshaus.

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