



Expert panel on International Archives Day

Safe Havens for Archives at Risk?

9 June 2016, 5.00-6.30 p.m.

Archives at Risk

Around the world archives that contain information on human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law are at risk - due to political reasons, armed conflicts, natural disasters, lack of resources, etc.

At the same time, such archives are essential for dealing with the past processes. State governments and NGOs therefore increasingly seek «safe havens» for archives from crisis regions. Various institutions have developed interesting initiatives to offer such safe repositories.

In Switzerland, swisspeace, the Swiss Peace Foundation, runs the project «[Archives and Dealing with the Past](#)» in cooperation with the FDFA and the Federal Archives since five years. swisspeace puts up for discussion in which ways Switzerland could serve as safe repository for archives at risk.

Experts report from practice

Trudy Huskamp Peterson is an internationally acknowledged expert on this subject. The former president of the American Society of Archivists is currently the chair of the Human Rights Working Group of the International Council on Archives (ICA). She has relevant experience in the field and reports on practical achievements and impending stumbling blocks.

Elisabeth Baumgartner is a lawyer specialized in international criminal law and transitional justice. As co-head for the dealing with the past program at swisspeace she oversees the current and planned activities in Switzerland and abroad.

Why an International Archives Day?

Archival documents are kept by their creator, legal successor or an archive because of their legal force and lasting historical significance. Archives thus are important sources of information and cultural heritage at once. They have to be preserved permanently and made accessible. This is what the Archives of Contemporary History of ETH Zurich, which in 2016 is celebrating its 50th anniversary, wants to remember with this event on the International Archives Day.

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Einführung und Moderation

Trudy Huskamp Peterson (ICA) (en)
Saving Archives at Risk: Achievements & Challenges

Elisabeth Baumgartner (swisspeace) (de)
Schweizerische Initiativen für gefährdete Archive

Questions & Answers

Limited room capacity - registration requested:
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