Adopted under the auspices of UNESCO, the World Heritage Convention promotes the role of the international community in protecting and managing heritage sites of universal importance. Yet, the Convention’s primary focus remains the state on whose territory the site is located. Heritage sites which straddle frontiers and boundaries between states are often the most vulnerable to destruction and damage and the fate of local communities or those to whom the site is of cultural, religious or social significance are ignored or silenced. The World Heritage Committee has promoted the joint nomination by States Parties of such sites to foster international cooperation.

This talk centres on the decades-long dispute between Thailand and Cambodia over the World Heritage listed site of the Temple of Preah Vihear. This contestation has been played out on the ground between armed forces and before international organisations like the UN Security Council, UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee, and the International Court of Justice. The response of these international organisations reveals their historical evolution over the last 70 years and enables us to better assess their capacity to achieve their central aim of ensuring peace, protecting and promoting human rights and, by extension, preventing irreversible cultural loss.


Wednesday, February 17, 2016
12:00pm - Seminar Room

Location: Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Room 106

If you have any questions regarding our events, please contact:

Julie Hitchcock
(650) 723-5731
juliehl@stanford.edu