THE ISLAMIC STATE AND THE TRAFFIC WITH CULTURAL PROPERTY

- The sinister turn in the practice of looting
- Abu Sayyaf's raid: what we know about how ISIS made money through cultural property
- Major loopholes in the international cultural heritage law framework

"THE SINISTER TURN"



"US Marines in northwest Iraq arrested five insurgents holed up in underground bunkers filled with automatic weapons, ammunition stockpiles, black uniforms ... night-vision goggles" and "30 vases, cylinder seals, and statuettes that had been stolen from the Iraq Museum" (Bogdanos, 2015, 161)



"THE SINISTER TURN"

CYLINDER SEALS





ABU SAYYAF'S RAID



Antiquities Division

- 1. TAXATION
- 2. LICENSES
- 3. DIRECT THEFT, LOOTING AND SALE



ICH LEGAL FRAMEWORK MAJOR LOOPHOLES

- 1970 UNESCO CONVENTION (Art 7(b)(i)) identified and inventorized items
- Syria and Iraq, not parties to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention
- UNSC Resolutions (2199/2015; 2253/2015; 2322/2016; 2347/2017) called for law enforcement and judicial cooperation among states
- Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (May 2017) not in force
- Statute of the International Criminal Court, in force, but limitations re movable objects

