Appropriating foreign collections for the benefit of Peruvian heritage: virtual ownership of exiled heritage

Alvaro Higueras
CNR-IBAM (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) + YOCOCUCU Georgia
> The “traditional” strategies to challenge L&T

> Police & Customs

> National Heritage laws

> Bilateral agreements: Memoranda of Understanding (temporary)
The cycle of heritage management in Peru as virtuous

Aiming at virtuous engagement with heritage: 2 trends

*Academic influence* – ever more

*Repatriation* – ever less
Novel strategies

Academic: Remote-sensing, satellite monitoring & other technologies

Reduced repatriation: Remote - virtual ownership - changes of attitudes towards exiled heritage
GAZE OF THE GODS: Spatial observation of Andean heritage
A new status for heritage: *Embrace it, not persecute it*

These novel options aim to diversify strategies to address L&T

Urgent amidst critical *scenarios* unequivocally delineated and denounced (Renfrew).
3 Principles

1. Shared responsibilities

2. Patrimonial sovereignty

3. Appropriation of heritage
Principle 3

Appropriation of heritage

> World-wide documentation of Peruvian heritage
> Recognizing and embracing documented, exiled heritage
What scenario do we foresee?

- status of national property to artifacts in foreign museums;
- acknowledge permanent loan status to those artifacts: keeper as custodian;
- long-term or lifetime loans;
- repatriate only some special artifacts;
- no financial compensation
Gold-plated mask from Lambayeque; Sicán society (ca. 800-1000 AD); obtained through looting; Looted in the 1950s in the region of Batán Grande; Acquired by Nelson A. Rockefeller in 195x; Bequest to the Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial collection in 1979; Held in custody by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Property of the Republic of Peru.
Peru certifies its heritage

Outstanding c.
Exemplary c.
Significant c.
Comparative c.
Didactical c.
The criteria (1)

- **Size** of the collection
- **Diversity** of the collection
- Percentage of holdings on exhibit;
- Range of sources of artifacts on display
- Range of contexts of artifacts in storage
- **Source** of the c. [looting; excavation];
- **Origin** of the collection
- **Documentation** of collection
The criteria (2)

- Last renovation of the exhibit
- Highlights of the collection
- Script of the collection
- Online access to the collection
- Publication of the artifacts
- Collection policies & position in regard to looting & trafficking
Peru certifies its heritage

Outstanding c.

Exemplary c.

Significant c.

Comparative c.

Didactical c.
The new Musée d'ethnographie de Genève

Peru certifies its heritage

Significant collection