



Candidate for Chair

Dr. Lina G. Tahan

Motivation Statement:

I am writing to formally submit my second-term candidacy for the Chair of the International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas (ICEthics). My research career in archaeology and museums, spanning over 20 years at

various institutions in the Middle East and Europe, has been dedicated to navigating the complex intersection of cultural heritage preservation, global access, and moral responsibility. I believe my international experience, record of collaborative leadership, and clear vision for ICEthics' future make me the ideal candidate to lead this committee during a period of profound global change.

If elected again, my presidency will focus on transforming ICEthics as a platform into a **proactive and indispensable global authority** on museum ethics. This will be achieved through two strategic pillars:

1. Fostering a Collaborative Global Network

ICEthics' strength lies in its international membership. I will enhance our capacity for global dialogue by establishing **new research programmes for the committee**. I aim to make ICEthics a more **inclusive platform** where members from emerging economies and smaller institutions feel fully supported, empowered, and equipped to navigate local ethical challenges using global best practices. I would also like to offer my passion for a forward-thinking vision to serve as Chair. I am ready to lead ICEthics in

addressing the defining ethical questions of our time and solidify our position as the essential resource for the global museum community.

2. The Global Standard on Decolonisation and Repatriation

The ethical landscape is rapidly shifting. I will prioritise the development of **best-practice guidelines** for museums worldwide on issues of decolonisation, restitution, and co-curation. This work will be done collaboratively, ensuring our standards are practical, sensitive, and applicable across large institutions, regional museums, and community-based centres alike.

Biography:

Lina G. Tahan has a PhD in Archaeology and Museum Studies from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. She is currently an affiliated scholar at the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge and, until 2019, a Lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, Lebanese University. Her research and teaching interests relate to: (1) Representation issues within Middle Eastern museums' collections, exhibitions and visitors; (2) The history of collections and museum development in Lebanon within the political context; (3) The definition of heritage in Lebanon and how this links to identity formation and the creation of a sense of place; (4) The role of museums in fostering understanding in divided societies. She is an active member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the current Chair of the International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas. She also promotes museums in the Arab World.