

Who owns Kosovo's past?

Heritage, Displacement
and the Difficult Past in
Post-War Kosovo

Nora Visoka-Weller

University of Cambridge

**Thursday,
22 October 2026
19:00**

Kollegienhaus, Hörsaal 001
University of Basel

LECTURE • Q&A • APÉRO



Universität
Basel

skuba ✖
Studentische Körperschaft
der Universität Basel

@asa_basel



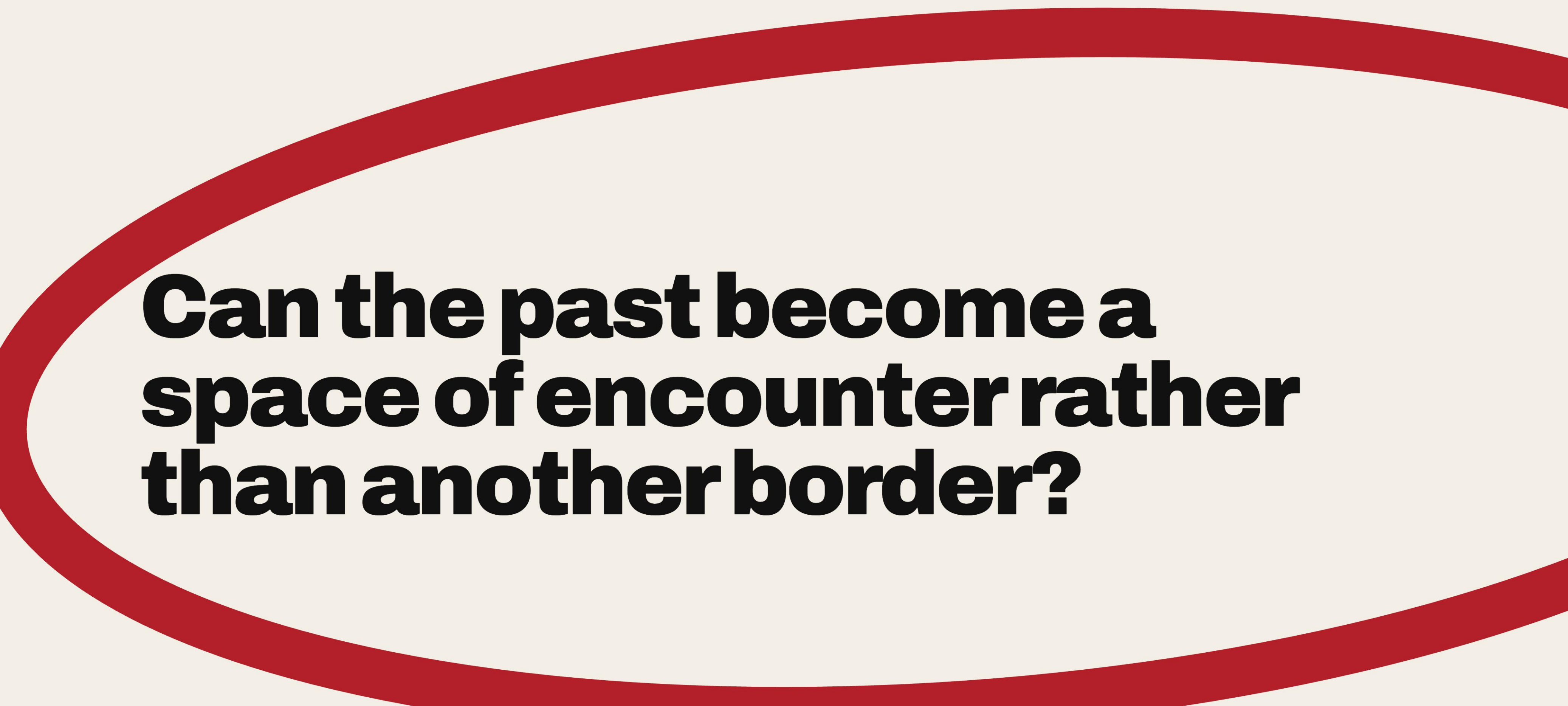
Why heritage matters

We often think of cultural heritage as old buildings, monuments and museum objects. But heritage is above all a relationship: between people and the places that hold their memories, their language and their sense of belonging. That is why it becomes so vulnerable in times of conflict, and why it can become a battleground long after the fighting has ended.

When a community is displaced, what happens to the heritage it leaves behind?

When places of worship, libraries or homes are destroyed, what is lost besides the buildings themselves? And when a society tries to protect its past, who decides what deserves protection, and for whom?

These questions are not unique to post-war societies. Switzerland, too, has its own difficult chapters of remembering and forgetting. Bringing both perspectives together invites us to think about how societies everywhere live with their past.



Can the past become a space of encounter rather than another border?

THE SPEAKER



Nora Visoka-Weller is an international expert in the protection, governance and legal safeguarding of cultural heritage in conflict-affected and post-war societies. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, she is based at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, where she researches heritage, identity and peacebuilding in post-war Kosovo. As Founder of the Institute for Heritage Governance and Art Law, she has advised governments, international organisations and religious institutions, including the Vatican and the Community of Sant'Egidio. Her latest work appears in *Heritage in War and Peace* (Springer, 2024).

PROGRAMME

19:00

Welcome by
ASA Basel

19:15

Lecture

20:30

Q&A

21:00

Apéro

Thursday, 22 October 2026

Kollegienhaus, Hörsaal 001
University of Basel

**Register
here →**



@asa_basel
asa@unibas.ch