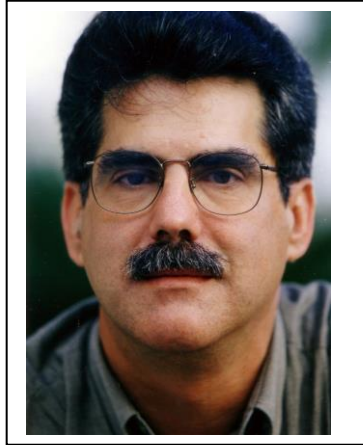


Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian presents

Frank Proschan



Definitions have consequences: Taking seriously the 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*

Facilitation provided by Richard Kurin

When: **12:00-1:30 on Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

Where: Smithsonian Castle Commons, 1000 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, D.C. 20560

Please RSVP to HolmgrenM@si.edu to ensure event capacity and record staff attendance.

Abstract:

In little more than a decade, 161 countries have ratified UNESCO's *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, thereby incorporating it into their national legal and policy frameworks. At the heart of the Convention is its forward-looking – indeed, revolutionary – definition of intangible cultural heritage that places communities in the central role of deciding what is and isn't their own heritage. Where did that definition come from, and where does it lead us? What are the consequences of taking that definition seriously—as it demands—for States, public and private institutions, civil society and the communities most concerned? How can the Convention's revolutionary potential be fully realized around the globe?

Bio:

Frank Proschan is an anthropologist and folklorist. Since 2006, he has worked in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, where he now leads the Programme Implementation Unit. His ethnographic research has taken him to many parts of the U.S. and Southeast Asia, and from the tops of high mountains to the depths of huge bureaucracies.

Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian is generously supported by the Smithsonian's Consortium for World Cultures. For more information, please visit: www.folklife.si.edu/ICH