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CONFERENCE

TARGETING BEAUTY

MEMORY POLITICS, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND THE TARGETING OF
UKRAINIAN CULTURE HERITAGEIAN KUIJT | *Dept. of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame (USA)*

**WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY MATTHIAS REITER-PÁZMÁNDY (FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
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Cultural heritage has few friends in times of war. In many ways the full-scale invasion of Ukraine is focused on memory politics, with the broader aim of erasing Ukrainian culture, history and heritage. Working as part of a collaborative international team of archaeologists and filmmakers, during three visits from 2023–2025, Kuijt and others traveled through central and north-eastern Ukraine filming and documenting the targeted destruction of cultural heritage. This presentation provides a first-hand account of travels around Kyiv, Lukashivka, Viazivka and Chernihiv, illustrates the destruction on the ground, and discusses the importance of understanding and assessing the destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage, both material and immaterial.

Videos to be shown during the event:

Kuijt, I., W. Donaruma, and P. Shydlovskyi (2024) Targeting Beauty (8:00 min).

Kuijt, I., and W. Donaruma (2024) The Shooting Wall: Witness in Film (6:00 min).

