

MILLERCOMM2019

CAS Center for
Advanced
Study

Frank Proschan

Intangible Cultural Heritage Program
Implementation, UNESCO

Thursday
February 7, 2019
4:00 pm

Knight Auditorium, Spurlock Museum
600 South Gregory, Urbana
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Cultural Heritage for the Future

Can UNESCO's Convention to Safeguard the World's Intangible Cultural Heritage Succeed?

Intangible cultural heritage includes the practices, expressions, and skills that are valued by communities, groups, and individuals because they provide a sense of cultural identity and continuity. UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (as it commonly known), ratified by 178 countries, seeks to safeguard that heritage. The 2003 Convention looks resolutely to the future and to the continued practice and transmission of intangible cultural heritage. The radical import of the 2003 Convention often goes unrecognized, both by countries that have ratified it and by scholars who study its implementation. At a time when the Convention is still relatively young and its fate not yet finally determined, we must ask how well the Convention is achieving its important mission to contribute to sustainable development worldwide.

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