



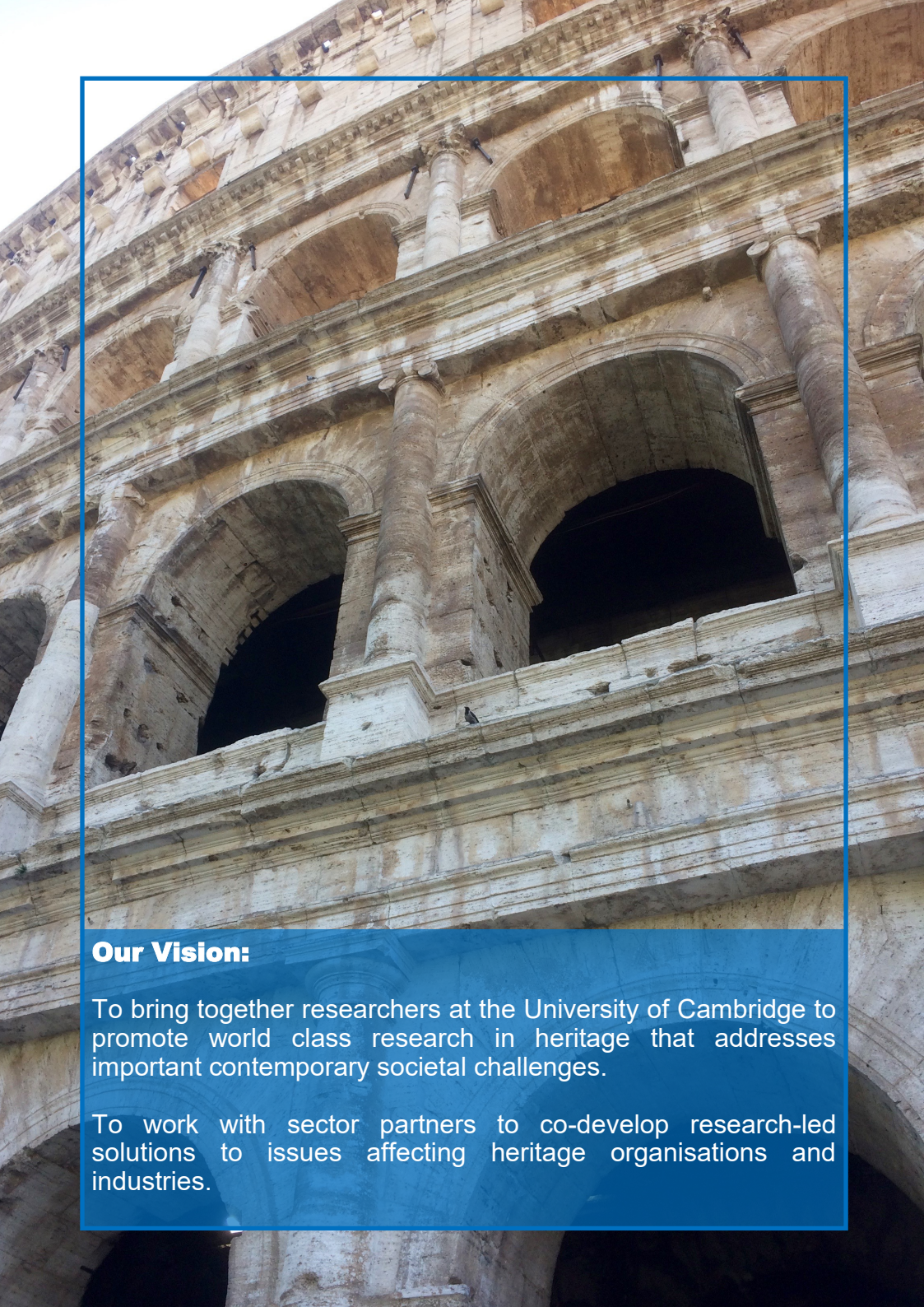
UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge
Heritage
Research
Centre

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

**A hub for interdisciplinary research
in the field of cultural heritage at
the University of Cambridge**



Our Vision:

To bring together researchers at the University of Cambridge to promote world class research in heritage that addresses important contemporary societal challenges.

To work with sector partners to co-develop research-led solutions to issues affecting heritage organisations and industries.

What is Heritage?

Where history is the study of the past, *heritage studies* is about understanding the many ways the past is used in the present.

Heritage can be understood as an active, dynamic relationship between then and now, formed through an on-going process of renegotiation, reconstruction, and recreation of what we choose to take from the past with us into the future.

Heritage sits at the centre of some of the most pressing contemporary challenges facing society. It is a key element in the ways that diverse institutions, political movements and communities recognise their identities, attribute value, contest rights claims and realise their political and economic strategies.

Heritage sites, traditional crafts, practices and performances, are all important means by which people identify with specific places and form a sense of who they are. For this reason, while archaeological sites, historic houses and monuments are rightly considered heritage, less tangible aspects of social life such as food, dances, songs, languages and knowledge involved in creating craft objects, are all phenomena studied by heritage researchers to help them understand contemporary society and its relationship with its past.

An Interdisciplinary Enterprise

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre (CHRC) brings together academics conducting heritage research in a wide range of disciplines, including Archaeology, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Classics, Criminology, Development Studies and Education.

The CHRC provides the platform to critically reflect, develop and expand the methodological tool kit available to heritage researchers and the ways in which these can inform the interpretations we make on the basis of our data.

Heritage is a highly interdisciplinary field of study and, as such, draws widely on methodologies and approaches used in a array of disciplines. As a fast maturing field of significant societal importance heritage studies have adapted and developed methodological and critical approaches and thinking to meet the distinct needs of the discipline. The researchers at the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre have been central to many of these developments.

The CHRC continues to grow, welcoming new members from graduate students to university professors, heritage and museum professionals, and from an ever widening range of subjects.



“Heritage is a rapidly growing field of fundamental contemporary and future significance, so it has been of great importance that we now have a centre at the University of Cambridge dedicated to research within this area.”

Marie Louise Stig Sørensen

Director of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre 2017-2019
Professor of European Prehistory and Heritage Studies

Our Membership

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre draws its membership from a range of subjects within the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and beyond. We welcome membership by students and staff at the University of Cambridge in a number of categories as well as hosting visiting scholars from across the globe. All members benefit from a vibrant interdisciplinary research community and subject specific administrative support for their heritage projects, academic events and impact activities. Our Affiliated Membership recognises the contribution of our colleagues in other institutions and facilitates the building of collaborative projects with world leading researchers and educators from across the globe.



Current Departments & Faculties

- Department of Archaeology
- Faculty of Classics
- Institute of Criminology
- Department of Land Economy
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies



“Working in an interdisciplinary environment such as the CHRC has allowed me to reflect on the comments and insights of colleagues in a range of different field, taking my own research in new and interesting directions”

Shailaja Fennell

Deputy Director of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre 2019-2020
University Senior Lecturer in Development Studies

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Find out more by visiting our
online members directory

[www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/
people](http://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/people)



“For Graduate Members the CHRC offers opportunities to get involved with lots of projects and events, thereby gaining experience that is valued by employers”

Tom Crowley

Graduate Member of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre 2017-2020
PhD in Archaeology

Graduate Members

Students on the MPhil in Heritage Studies in the Department of Archaeology and PhD candidates from member departments become graduate member of the CHRC and are at the heart of the centre’s vibrant research community. Find out more: <https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/graduates>

Postdoctoral Members

The CHRC welcome postdoctoral researchers and projects covering many areas of heritage research. Based in member departments or the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research our Postdoctoral researchers are pushing the boundaries of the discipline and setting new research agendas.

Our Research



The CHRC has a wide and varied research profile which spans a geographical range from Europe, to Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Ongoing research projects fall within six overarching themes, facilitating collaborations and exchange between projects and enhancing research outputs.

CHRC members may be involved in one or more research themes and the Centre's research projects and annual programme of events seek to promote high level discussion in these areas as well as communicate them to broader academic and non-academic audiences.

Current research projects include:

- Yangshao Culture: 100 Year Research History and Heritage Impact
- Restoring Cultural Property and Communities after Conflict
- Safeguarding Sites: IHRA Charter for Best Practice
- Reclaiming the landscape: spiritual potency in Russia and Japan
- Cape Verde: Island Heritage
- Digital Documentation of Ksar Said Project

View the CHRC research themes and projects

www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/research-themes

www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/research-projects

Our Events

The CHRC hosts an exciting annual programme of events, bringing internationally renowned scholars and industry professionals to Cambridge to share ground-breaking research and cutting edge developments in the field of cultural heritage. The CHRC fortnightly Heritage Seminars, the Annual Heritage Lecture and the long running Cambridge Heritage Symposium (held in Cambridge since 1996) are public events which act as interdisciplinary forums to both present and challenge current thinking in specific areas of heritage research.



- Fortnightly heritage research seminars
- Graduate member poster presentations & masterclasses
- Termly topical workshops
- Twice yearly 'Conversations' with leading heritage policy makers and professionals
- Annual Heritage Lecture
- Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium

Find out about CHRC events and view past annual lectures:

[www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/
events](http://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events)



Engaging with the Sector

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre fosters collaborations with a range of partners across the heritage sector to enhance research, inform practice and co-develop new approaches and research questions. The CHRC aspires to work with heritage organisations, professionals, NGOs and charities and businesses in the UK and overseas to investigate pressing questions impacting stakeholders at a local and global scale.

Heritage Organisations

The work of CHRC members offers research-led insights relevant to a range of organisation responsible for the management and preservation of heritage sites and the historic environment.

CHRC welcomes opportunities to work with heritage organisations through new partnered research grant applications, Collaborative Doctoral Awards, research visits, residencies and consultancy.

Contact the CHRC coordinator for more about opportunities to collaborate:

heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk

Policy Makers and Government

Cultural Heritage concerns intersect with the strategies of many national and local government offices and departments.

Beyond established cultural and environmental affairs, decision makers with responsibility for food, tourism, sustainability goals, international development and health, all have the potential to benefit from research in heritage.

Through its membership of various heritage groups and networks, CHRC members seek to communicate the findings of their research to policy makers, with the aim to positively impact decision making on a range of contemporary issues affecting and affected by heritage.



*Photo Credit:
M L S Sørensen*

International Research Centres

Through its research projects the CHRC has collaborated with Universities and Research Centres in countries across Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

As an interdisciplinary subject CHRC members draw on expertise from around the world in realising their research projects. Departments within the CHRC have a history of leading and contributing to international projects, working, defining and investigating globally relevant research questions, for example around the condition of heritage during and after conflict. CHRC has both the research and grant administration knowledge and structures to deliver successful and impactful outcomes.

Heritage Professionals

Past projects have seen CHRC members work with a range of professional partners.

These have included architects and engineers, museum curators, and software developers. Professionals with whom CHRC members are co-developing research projects and delivered outputs with real-world applications. Examples include projects to digitally preserve tangible and intangible heritage in Tunisia and develop interactive learning resources for students, and by advising on the restoration of museums in Sudan to provide for the educational and cultural needs of their communities and, visitors.

NGOS and Charities

Sensitive to the challenges of working in areas of the world where heritage sites and practices are at significant risk, CHRC researchers regularly collaborate with charities and non-governmental organisations with strong links to local communities.

CHRC projects have sought to address a number of sustainable development goals in which heritage plays a role in improving economic prospects, educational opportunities and access to culture, for some of the worlds poorest peoples. Through projects in a number of ODA recipient countries CHRC members work with national and local governments, as well as NGOs, to ensure positive impacts of their research for local communities.



The Heritage Alliance

The **Cambridge Heritage Research Centre** is a member of the Heritage Alliance. **The Heritage Alliance** is the largest coalition of individuals and heritage organisations in the UK, working for the promotion, advocacy, development and preservation of heritage interests.

Members of the CHRC sit on the Heritage Alliance's **Rural Heritage Advocacy Group** and **Digital, Learning and Skills Advocacy Group**.

The Centre in Numbers

Since its establishment in 2017 the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre has gone from strength to strength, building connections within and beyond the University. Some of the successes of the Centre during the academic years 2017-19 can be seen visualised below.

50

centre members

10

academic
subject areas

6

centre research
themes

8

academic
workshops

15

heritage
publications

30

lunchtime
seminars





To start the conversation contact:

Dr Dacia Viejo Rose | CHRC Director | dv230@cam.ac.uk | 01223 339286

Dr Liliana Janik | CHRC Deputy Director | lj102@cam.ac.uk | 01223 339295

Dr Shailaja Fennell | CHRC Deputy Director | ss141@cam.ac.uk | 01223 764048

Ben Davenport | CHRC Coordinator | heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk | 01223 339291

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