News

CHRC Annual Fair and Heritage Lecture

We delighted to announce that our the CHRC Annual Fair and Heritage Lecture will be hosted on Friday 9th February and Thursday 15th February respectively. The Annual Fair will include a series of talks and poster presentations by CHRC members and will be hosted in the McDonald Seminar Room. The 2024 Heritage Lecture, entitled Monumental Lies: The Material Evidence of the Past, will be presented by Robert Bevan. Both events are free to attend and open to the public.

(Read more on Pages 5 and 6)

Cover Story

New international heritage charter presented at European Commission and launched in Brussels

In January 2024, CHRC partner Dr Gilly Carr presented a new international heritage charter to the Working Group on the Implementation of the EU Strategy on Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. In this issue’s cover story, Gilly provides an outline of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) Charter for Safeguarding Sites, discusses the fieldwork which underpinned its creation and reflects on the future of its implementation.

Cover photo: European Commission, Brussels (Gilly Carr)

(Read more on Page 2)
Dr Gilly Carr, St Catherine’s College / Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge

The first ever international heritage charter which focuses on sites of the Holocaust has been published following its adoption by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in Zagreb in November 2023 and its launch in Brussels in January 2024. I have chaired and project-managed this charter from its inception in 2019 and it gave me a great deal of pleasure to travel to Brussels to present it at the European Commission headquarters to the Working Group on the Implementation of the EU Strategy on Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. The IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites has been a project that comprises a team of 14 international experts and additional external advisors. The Charter has been written over a period of five years through a combination of site visits, working with practitioners (site managers), and hearing from international experts. This has proved to be a potent methodology. Seeing for ourselves the threats, risks and challenges that sites of the Holocaust face in the 21st century has been extremely revealing and has shown us that even the most well-known Holocaust site in Europe, Auschwitz-Birkenau, is not entirely safeguarded.

With threats ranging from climate change to a lack of funding, from wear and tear and neglect and decay to inappropriate reuse and private ownership, the range of varied risks (of which we identify 16) means that we think that there is not a single such site in Europe today that is entirely safeguarded. Even if a site is in an otherwise excellent state of repair, it can face threats such as far right demonstrations and vandalism, or accidental or deliberate distortion of its narrative. The realisation that sites across Europe share such common threats made us realise that solutions are also international and need a shared approach.

The Charter itself, which is applicable to other sites of trauma beyond those specific to the Holocaust and persecution by the Nazis and their collaborators, is made up of four Articles. Article 1 lists safeguarding principles, the statements of the fundamental reasons for safeguarding sites. Article 2 identifies the risks to the significance of sites and
COVER STORY

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lists the 16 risks, threats and challenges we identified during fieldwork. In Article 3, safeguarding responsibilities outline the duties and obligations of the 35 Member States of IHRA. Article 4 contains safeguarding practices, in other words, recommended practical steps.

Over the period of research for the project, we worked with the Channel Island of Alderney, which had two concentration camps and at least two forced labour camps and a mass grave within an area of 3 miles by 1.5 miles. None of these were marked as heritage sites, had information plaques or were marked in the landscape by anything other than a single plaque put up at the entrance posts of one former camp in 2008. From this case study, we saw that lack of acknowledgement and memorialisation was a threat to the sites’ safeguarding. The second site we worked with was Mauthausen in Austria, where we were interested to see that disability and insurance legislation was having a profound impact on the site’s historic fabric. Not only were some key areas of the site fenced off in case somebody fell and sued the director, but a list of 400 changes to the historic fabric had been requested by disability legislation in order to make the site more accessible. Our third case study site included the killing sites and mass graves in Kaunas, Lithuania, where the associated museum was silent on the subject of Lithuanians who had collaborated with the Nazis in killing Jews. This visit provided an interesting lesson on silences which distort the narrative of the Holocaust. In our fourth year we worked with the former ghetto of Terezin, where the storms and floods of climate change are causing the collapse of buildings. This trip was invaluable for making us think not just about the threats of climate breakdown, but also what principles we wanted to uphold in terms of the use of buildings with Holocaust histories once restored.

Now that the Charter has been internationally adopted and launched, 2024 is our dissemination year. This means translating the Charter, raising awareness about its existence, getting it on the desks of policy makers and practitioners, and putting it into practice. This process has already started within IHRA, which is an international organisation which brings together experts, policy makers, politicians and ambassadors. As part of dissemination, we will be visiting the excavation of the Warsaw Ghetto later this year to help us think through the implications for archaeological sites, as well as to discuss with site managers the intended narrative told at this place.

One of the most valuable tools for putting the Charter into practice has been paid for by the University of Cambridge: a data visualisation created by Nadieh Bremer, the talented artist who created the stunning UNESCO data visualisations
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on intangible cultural heritage (ICH), which many may know from the UNESCO website. While the vibrant rainbow colours of the ICH ‘dataviz’ was inappropriate for sites of the Holocaust, the dataviz now on the IHRA website is slowly growing as more and more countries put forward their sites. The idea is that the dataviz helps practitioners identify challenges and how to respond to them, learning from each other and seeing how other sites with similar problems have gone about resolving and responding to them. The dataviz also showcases good practice from the Charter. While at present we have 9 sites on the dataviz, we hope to eventually have 80 to commemorate 80 years since the end of the Second World War.

The QR code above will take you to the relevant part of the IHRA website, the dataviz, and the Charter itself.
On behalf of the Faculty, Fellows & Graduate Members of the CHRC,

please join us for the

Annual Heritage Fair

FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2024, 5:30-7:30PM
THE MCDONALD INSTITUTE
Courtyard Building, Downing Site CB2 3ER

A brief presentation by current members & partners will be followed by a networking reception, drinks and snacks.
CHRC 2024 Annual Heritage Lecture

Monumental Lies &
The Material Evidence of the Past

The past is weaponised in culture wars and the city is cynically edited by those who wish to impose their ideology upon the physical spaces around us. This is not just about statues of slavers or colonialists; Holocaust deniers, for example misuse details of the ruins of the gas chambers at Auschwitz to promote their ‘no holes; no Holocaust’ lies.

To guard against this manipulation, the preservation of the material evidence of history is crucial. Yet longstanding concepts such as ‘authenticity’ in heritage are being undermined by gatekeepers such as UNESCO and by the prioritisation of memory and impressions over facts.

The past cannot be denied but nor should it be allowed to stand without criticism. In Monumental Lies: Culture Wars and the Truth about the Past, Robert Bevan argues that if monuments and architecture really are evidence then we need to be inventive about transforming sites of honour into sites of shame.

Robert Bevan is an author and journalist. He is the author of Monumental Lies: Culture Wars and the Truth about the Past (Verso), a book of the year for the Financial Times and the Art Newspaper. His previous book, The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War was described as “ground-breaking” by the New York Review of Books.

He is a member of the Mayor of London’s Commission on Diversity in the Public Realm, and ICORP, the expert committee of ICOMOS on risk preparedness. He is a heritage consultant described as “one of the most compelling progressive voices in the heritage world” (Tribune).

18:00 (GMT), Thursday 15 February 2024
Frankopan Hall, West Court, Jesus College, Cambridge
The Cogs and the Wheels: the Intangible Heritage of Black Precision Engineers in 18th C Jamaica and the Untouchable Status of British Industrial Triumphantism

The trial transcript of an 18th century Old Bailey clerk has the potential to turn understanding of the British industrial revolution on its head because of the presence of a single word: ‘Jamaica’; but dominant opinion dismisses this court proceedings as a clerical error ‘a mistake or some misreporting – almost as though someone wrote Jamaica for Holland’. This presentation argues that what is significant is not what the prosecutor said, but that the clerk heard ‘Jamaica’ and why: an intangible record of Black Jamaican precision engineering and the major export trade from this eighteenth century Caribbean industry into Europe. The stakes here are high. Questions of ‘success’ in immigration; technological innovation; and knowledge transfer in history and historiography, all matter for moves to reparative justice. Engagement with intangible heritage, in opposition to the assumptions of apparently untouchable British industrial triumphalism, shows how the importance of Black precision engineering under slavery is and has always been tangibly evident.

Image: Jacob Lawrence, ‘Watchmaker’, 1946.

Dr Jenny Bulstrode
Lecturer in History of Science and Technology, University College London (UCL)

Dr Dacia Viejo-Rose (CHRC)

Bio: Dr Jenny Bulstrode is Lecturer in History of Science and Technology at University College London. During her AHRC-funded doctoral research in HPS, Cambridge, she held a Jesus College JRF; as well as Cairo; Royal Observatory, Antiquarian Horological Society and Scientific Instrument Society fellowships, among others, researching cultural and technical histories of metallurgy, glass-, and clock-making. Awards for her published work include: an ICOHTEC Daumas Prize; an American Academy of Arts and Sciences Sarton Prize; and a British Society for the History of Science Singer Prize. Her most recent research was reported by the Guardian; BBC News; and NPR; and the subject of a Jamaican government press release on reparations. She is listed among Apollo Magazine’s top 10 ‘thinkers’ in Art and Tech.

Thursday 15 February 2024, 1pm

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site and on Zoom

To join online register at https://rb.gy/49bx64
EVENTS

6th February 2024
14.00 - 15.30 GMT

‘IT’S COMPLICATED’: AFRICA IN FOCUS PANEL
BY ROSE MIYONGA AND LUISA SCHNEIDER

Mass Graves, Heritage, and Custodianship after the Mau Mau War in Kenya
This talk focuses on mass graves and the ethics of heritage and culture in post-colonial Kenya. Centring around oral histories and ethnographies in central Kenya, the talk discusses the question of mass graves from the Mau Mau period, a legacy of Kenya’s colonial war. The talk draws on detailed micro-histories from specific sites, investigating what happened to both the gravesites themselves and the human remains that were placed there during the Mau Mau war in the 1950s.

Rose Miyonga is a Kenyan-British researcher and writer. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Warwick, working on the dynamics of memories of the Mau Mau War in post-independence Kenya.

Silenced Histories, Open Secrets: The Interface of Public Memory and Tourism strategies in Navigation Liberia's Colonial Legacy
This talk aims to illuminate how public memory and the tourism sector navigate the complex landscape of Liberia’s colonial heritage. Utilizing methods such as discourse analysis and (digital) ethnography, it serves as a compelling case study, shedding light on how colonial experiences are harnessed, suppressed, and mediated within the realms of the public memory and tourism sphere.

Luisa Schneider, a PhD candidate in the Junior Research Group "African Knowledges and the History of Publication since the 1970s" at the Africa Multiple Cluster, University of Bayreuth, explores contemporary history mediation in post-conflict Liberia.

To ATTEND this online panel, please subscribe to the HCDG mailing list by Saturday 3 February, 14.00 GMT.
You can subscribe to the HCDG mailing list by scanning the QR code and completing the subscription form.
If you miss the subscription deadline, please email the HCDG at: hcdg.universityofcambridge@gmail.com
Re-presenting Representation: Complicated Identities of Celebrated Figures

by Jack Ashby

Natural history museums have long elevated the work of privileged white men to the exclusion of almost everyone else. More recently, work has begun to celebrate more honestly a greater diversity of people who were involved in major advancements in the history of science. In this work, museums are identifying people of colour who made key contributions to collections and disciplines, and taking the opportunity to finally acknowledge their vital roles. Of course, this can involve nuance.

This talk will centre on Edward Charles Stirling (1848-1919), one of the most successful scientists of his era in Australia. His grandmother was a Creole woman in Jamaica (where his Scottish grandfather was a planter), so celebrating Stirling’s success-stories could be perfect for increasing representation of people of colour in museum interpretation. However, Stirling himself does not appear to have identified publicly as having African or Jamaican heritage - does this complicate matters? This presentation will invite discussion over how to approach this work. Do circumstances like this add complications to the way historical figures are framed? Should these complexities become part of the story that is told, as they reflect the social structures such people were subjected to at the time? Or, if empowerment through representation is the main goal, do we simply present their heritage as we now understand it to be?

Jack Ashby is the Assistant Director of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge. From 2022-23 he was an Art Fund Headley Fellow. He is a trustee of the Natural Sciences Collections Association, and an Honorary Research Fellow in UCL Science and Technology Studies.

To ATTEND this online talk, please subscribe to the HCDG mailing list by Saturday 10 February, 14.00 GMT.

You can subscribe to the HCDG mailing list by scanning the QR code and completing the subscription form.

If you miss the subscription deadline, please email the HCDG at: hcdg.universityofcambridge@gmail.com
Talk 1: ‘Concrete Impacts: Blast Walls, Wartime Emissions, and the US Occupation of Iraq’ - Benjamin Neimark

Militaries around the world are a major source of carbon emissions, yet very little is known about their carbon footprint. Reliable data around military resource use and environmental damage is highly variable. Researchers are dependent upon military transparency, the context of military operations, and broader emissions reporting. While studies are beginning to emerge on global militaries and their carbon footprints, less work has focused on wartime emissions. In a recent paper, we examined one sliver of the hidden carbon emissions of late-modern warfare by focusing on the use of concrete “blast walls” by US forces in Baghdad over a five-year period (2003–2008). This study used a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to examine one of the world’s largest military carbon footprints of concrete, an infrastructural weapon in late-modern urban counterinsurgencies. Moving beyond dominant discourses on climate-security and “greening”, we present one of the first studies to expose direct and indirect military emissions resulting from combat.

Talk 2: The many toxic lives of war metals’ - Kali Rubaii

This talk begins at the belly of war, in Fallujah, Iraq — one of the most heavily bombarded cities in Iraq. Based on Rubaii’s ethnographic fieldwork between 2014 and 2023, the talk traces war metals from the sand and bodies of children in Fallujah back to their origins at war’s jaws: mineral mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where such metals are extracted by artisanal miners for use by tech and weapons companies. The talk also follows the post-battle life of weaponized metals to its tail, where these metals are recycled by Indian laborers in steel factories in Iraqi Kurdistan as a central part of the concrete industry, or where they are destroyed in burn pits in Colfax, Louisiana. By tracing the toxic exposures people face at multiple sites of metal extraction, weaponization, reuse, and disposal, this talk identifies two key points about war’s toxic tentacles: 1) it identifies the many bodies and people whose lives are ravaged by warfare far from the site and dates of documented battles, and 2) it pinpoints locations in which further research may identify forensic sites of intervention in an increasingly diffuse network of corporate and contracted war-making.

To book your place at this event, please use the following link: Concrete, militarised environments and political ecology
The Department of Archaeology is seeking to appoint a fixed term full-time **Teaching Associateship in Heritage Studies**, (1.0 FTE), from 1 April 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Teaching Associate will be based in the Department of Archaeology on the Downing Site, Cambridge.

The post involves:

- **Coordination of and contributions to graduate papers in Heritage, which involve lectures, seminars, online teaching environment and field trips**;
- **Co-teaching of the Research Skills component of the dissertation training for MPhil students, which incorporates a range of skills related to research development**;
- **Contribution to other option papers as appropriate depending on the post-holder's interests**;
- **MPhil dissertation supervision**;
- **Marking coursework, exams and dissertations**.

The post-holder is expected to contribute to the teaching of different MPhil papers as needed.

Candidates will need to show evidence of the following qualifications, skills and experience:

- **Good first degree and a doctorate or equivalent experience in Heritage Studies**;
- **Evidence of ability to teach the subject effectively at Undergraduate and Masters level with an emphasis on the theoretical aspects of Heritage Studies**;
- **Excellent organisational abilities**;
- **Ability to play an effective role in the life and work of the Department**;
- **Ability to work as part of a team**;
- **Experience and knowledge of using digital teaching platforms**.

The deadline for application is **15 February 2024**. Interviews will be held in the week commencing 4th of March 2024. Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr Andreas Pantazatos (ap2222@cam.ac.uk), Dr Dacia Viejo Rose (dv230@cam.ac.uk), or the Department Administrator Melanie Hugow (administrator@arch.cam.ac.uk).

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre (CHRC) brings together Departments and Faculties from a variety of disciplines across the University of Cambridge to address a range of important themes within heritage research. More information about the CHRC can be accessed through the following link: [Cambridge Heritage Research Centre—Homepage](https://chrc.cam.ac.uk).
OPPORTUNITIES

PhD Position on Collecting Latin American Ethnography and Archaeology

Link: Collecting Latin American Ethnography and Archaeology

Department of Heritage and Society Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University

The Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, seeks to appoint a full-time PhD candidate to carry out research at the intersection of Collection History research, Provenance Studies, and Digital Humanities. The successful candidate will join the Department of Heritage and Society, and be connected to the broader museums/collections-based research structures at Leiden University, in particular the Leiden University Center for the Arts in Society (LUCAS). The research should lead the candidate to obtain a PhD within a four-year timeframe (1.0 FTE). The PhD candidate will be supervised by Dr. Martin E. Berger (PI), Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University.

The PhD candidate’s research is part of the ERC-funded Starting Grant project BECACO – Between Canon and Coincidence: using data-driven approaches to understand Art Worlds.

The BECACO project will develop a novel interdisciplinary framework for studying the provenance of ethnographic and archaeological collections. Mobilizing the potential of data-driven methodologies (e.g. quantitative analysis, network analysis, data mining), the aim of the project is to create a diachronic, international, and cross-institutional understanding of the collecting of Indigenous Latin American Material in Europe between 1850 and 2000. By studying the collections of 12 museums in 9 European countries, the project will reconstruct how – through the formation of collections – the Indigenous Latin American Art World as it existed in Europe between 1850-2000 constructed an artistic, aesthetic, and academic discourse that shaped how Indigenous Latin America is represented in Europe until today.

Key tasks:

- Conduct archival research on object and collector’s biographies in museums around Europe;
- Construct and maintain collection datasets based on museum database records, in collaboration with other team members;
- Carry out network analysis of collecting networks, in collaboration with other team members;
- Communicate with curators/museums in Europe, North America, and Latin America concerning project progress;
- Assist in organizing project-related symposia, conferences, and research fellowships;
- Publish and present research in international conferences and journals, both independently and with team members;
- Follow PhD courses based on an individual training and supervision plan, including through the Graduate School of Archaeology;
- Produce a PhD dissertation within a four-year timeframe;
- Contribute to the overall aims of the BECACO project.
OPPORTUNITIES

PhD Position on Collecting Latin American Ethnography and Archaeology

Selection Criteria
- Master’s degree in Museum Studies, (Collections) History, Archaeology, Anthropology, or a related field, completed by the time of appointment;
- An demonstrable interest in the history of museums and collecting, provenance research, and Indigenous cultural material;
- Research and writing skills demonstrated by a master’s thesis and/or publications;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in an organized and results-oriented fashion;
- Excellent command of English and passive (reading) knowledge of at least two of the following languages: German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Italian, Swedish, and/or Hungarian;
- Experience with provenance research and/or work experience in a museum is considered an advantage;
- Experience with Digital Humanities methodologies (e.g. network analysis, linked data) is considered an advantage

We offer
- The selected candidate will be appointed for 4 years in total: initially for a 1 year trial period, followed by an extension of 3 more years, in accordance with the Collective Labor Agreement for Dutch Universities.
- The salary is the standard offered to PhD researchers in the Netherlands in - accordance with the Collective Labor Agreement for Dutch Universities (P scale: P0 to P3 = €2770 - €3539 gross per month).
- Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with additional holiday (8%) and end-of-year bonuses (8.3 %), training and career development. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break. More at https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/working-at/job-application-procedure-and-employment-conditions.
- All our PhD students are embedded in the Graduate School of Archaeology. Our graduate school and Leiden University offer several PhD training courses at various levels.

The deadline for applications is 3 March 2024. Applications must be submitted via SuccessFactors. The position is envisaged to start mid-August 2024. Please attach the following additional documents as one PDF file, stating the vacancy number: 14494
- Motivation letter, including your relevant interest and experience in the subject matter and in doing advanced research (max 1 page)
- Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, if applicable
- A writing sample (thesis or publication)
- The names and address of two potential referees (no recommendation letters required at this stage)

The first round of interviews will be scheduled in March. We kindly request that you be available during this period. Whether this interview will take place in person or online depends on the availability of the applicant and their ability to travel to Leiden.
Fulham Palace Trust runs a number of public events each year. Following a successful expansion of these events over the past two years, we’re looking to build on this programme further. Large scale public events currently bring approximately 15,000 visitors to the Palace each year and £45,000 net profit as well as additional donation and retail income. We’re looking to build on this, expanding our events programme both in terms of number of attendees and new events. Reporting to the commercial and visitor experience manager (CVEM), you will develop and co-ordinate large public events and filming taking place on site.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic and quick-thinking public events and filming manager. Someone full of ideas and with a passion for generating income and promoting Fulham Palace, helping the organisation grow and develop.
We would be especially interested in hearing from you about events and opportunities. Contributions in the form of short reviews of conferences, exhibitions, publications or other events/material that you have attended/read are also welcome. Please note that advertisements for any non-CHRC events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive our bulletin, or if you have a notice to post, please contact the editor (heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk). For more information about the Heritage Research Group, visit the CHRC website: www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk

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