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Cover Story

Ontological security in conflict heritage: remembering air raids in Japan

by *Oliver Moxham*

In anticipation of the 26th Cambridge Heritage Symposium, bulletin editor Oliver Moxham explores the ontological security created and challenged by national and local air raid heritage in Japan.

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Cover image:

Origami cranes, a Japanese practice turned global symbol of peace.

[‘Thousand paper cranes’ by OiMax](#)
(CC2.0).

stood beneath the blast's epicentre, was inscribed in 1996 as a World Heritage site for its historical significance. Its inscription is unique, having been nominated solely on criteria vi as a symbol of “world peace” despite having “no aesthetic or architectural significance” (ICOMOS 1996). As a heritage site, it has afforded ontological security to post-war Japan as it attempted to remake itself as a nation of peace, while remaining a major tourist attraction and drawing international tourists beyond Tokyo-Kyoto route. The memory culture around Hiroshima has also contributed intangible heritage practices to global peace movements, such as the international Peace Crane Project which encourages participants to fold origami paper cranes to practice peace and hope for a future without conflict.

Despite these contributions, however, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial has also surreptitiously provided ethnocentric ontological security for Japanese wartime suffering. Throughout the war, the Japanese Empire (1868-45) had mobilised workers and conscripted soldiers from across its territories to increase homeland productivity in total war and bolster its forces. In the war's

final years, tens of thousands of non-Japanese were caught in the targeted bombings of Japan's industrial cities. Approximately 140,000 Koreans alone lived in wartime Hiroshima, many as forced labourers, and so 20% of nuclear bomb victims were Korean (Yoneyama 2015). The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum euphemistically refers to such victims as people “away from home” with no reference of the imperial context for their being there (above). Where Japanese hibakusha, atomic bomb survivors, have had their suffering gain recognition in the peace heritage practices of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the same commemorations exclude Korean victims who continue to campaign for recognition of their historical and ongoing suffering. In her interview with the BBC (2025),

Image: A panel from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum permanent exhibition describing non-Japanese victims of the atomic bombing as people “away from home”. By author, August 2024.



84-year-old survivor Shim Jin-tae stated that "no-one takes responsibility. Not the country that dropped the bomb. Not the country that failed to protect us. America never apologised. Japan pretends not to know. Korea is no better. They just pass the blame - and we're left alone."

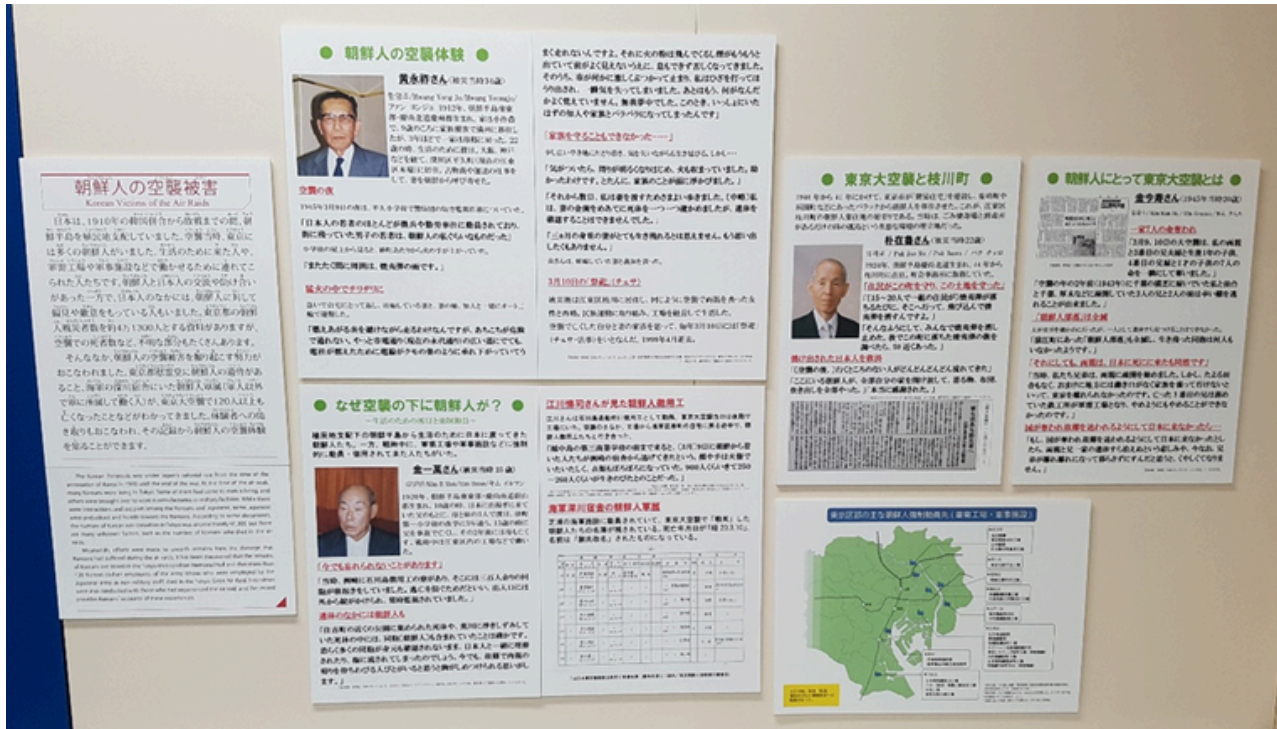


Image: Display at the Center for the Tokyo Raids and Air Damages highlighting the Korean victims in the Tokyo air raids of 1944-45 and the colonial reasons for their being there. By author, August 2022.

The omission of non-Japanese victims from national conflict heritage narratives has been central to the ontological security of post-imperial Japan, where post-war governments have sought to amplify national victimhood on the world stage, disassociating it from its imperial past and war crimes (Yoneyama 1999; 2015). Conventional air raid memorials are no better, with the National Showa Memorial Museum solely referring to Japanese families as air raid victims (Seaton 2021). The task of remembering all victims has been left to private and grassroots organisations who have founded conflict heritage sites such as the Center for the Tokyo Raids and War Damage (above) and the Kyoto Museum for World Peace. Their work in including non-Japanese victims within national and imperial suffering narratives emphasises the importance of conflict heritage in providing ontological security for those overlooked by official conflict narratives.

In my research on the little-known air raids of Kyoto (Moxham 2023; 2024), I was struck by how proactive individuals can be in making their own tangible heritage where official sites and practices have failed to provide them with ontological security for their past trauma. 92 Kyotoites were killed and 352 injured across three raids between 1944-45. These numbers pale in comparison to the 100,000 killed in the 11th March 1945 Tokyo air raid, yet survivors felt their losses were ignored in national war narratives. Permanent memorials were erected for all three sites

through local fundraising efforts in 1989, 2005 and 2014, yet these were preceded by homemade memorials outside people's homes in affected neighbourhoods, from newspaper clippings to salvaged bomb shrapnel in glass cases. These humble memorials provide a powerful example of the ontological security conflict heritage provides, prompting local communities to create their own for their needs where national heritage has neglected them.

Within a single national context, we have seen how heritage intended to provide national and international ontological security can simultaneously threaten that of disenfranchised communities. These communities, however, have also shown the capacity to develop their own heritage and by extension their own security to challenge top-down narratives. If you wish to share your own insights into the ontological security of heritage, [we await your abstract for the upcoming symposium.](#)

Bio

[Oliver Moxham](#) is an Archaeology PhD Candidate at the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre, University of Cambridge. His published works have explored the impact of semiotic and lingual translation of conflict heritage, particularly around Japanese heritage sites on the Asia-Pacific War. His PhD attempts to understand how different translation methods lead to different visitor interpretations through multilingual discourse analysis of interpretive tour surveys and Google Maps reviews. Forthcoming articles look at: the role of semiotic markers like the Nanjing Massacre in eliciting dissonant interpretations ([Archaeological Review from Cambridge](#)); the potential of online ethnography for understanding public interpretation of heritage ([Heritage, Memory and Conflict](#)). See his [ORCID profile](#) for more details.



*Image: A homemade memorial for the Nishijin air raid in Kamigyō Ward, Kyoto.
By author, June 2018.*

450,000 archaeological finds unearthed from HS2 excavations



Image: HS2 Curzon St Archaeological Investigation by metrogogo ([CC2.0](#)).

The 450,000 objects, which are being held in a secret warehouse, include a possible Roman gladiator's tag, a hand axe that may be more than 40,000 years old and 19th Century gold dentures. It is an "unprecedented" amount and array of items, which will yield new insights into Britain's past, says the Centre for British Archaeology.

Since 2018 around 1,000 archaeologists have been involved in 60 digs along the route HS2 is set to take between London to Birmingham. While the route is not currently scheduled to open until after 2033 due to delays, archaeologists say their fieldwork is largely complete. The future of many objects, including whether they will stay in storage or be displayed, is still undecided, along with their ownership.

Historic England commended the team for revealing "new and exciting sites spanning over 10,000 years of our past". However, building HS2 has changed the landscape along its route, cutting into fields and communities, and dividing opinion. Plans are afoot to show the objects, with artefacts from the Wendover Saxon cemetery, where 122 graves were unearthed, will soon go on display for the first time at a Discover Bucks Museum exhibition. However, the future of other items is less clear.

[Learn more](#)

Why do some pasts refuse to die? Talk by CHRC alumna Margaret Comer



Image: Margaret Comer presenting (TEDx Talks 2025).

Dr Margaret Comer's TEDx talk, "Why Do Some Pasts Refuse to Die?", is now available to [watch on YouTube](#). The talk covers how the heritage of Soviet repressions in Kazakhstan is being uncovered and preserved today—and why this heritage is so important to protect, not just for Kazakhstan, but for the world. Margaret reflected that memory of the past is not just history, but heritage—shaped by what we choose to preserve, from plaques on buildings to museums and memorials. For over a decade, she has studied how Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia remember the victims of Soviet repression. Gulag sites and mass graves, she explains, are not only traces of tragedy but reminders of the value of human life: "Although memory of past suffering can be mobilized to foment contemporary violence, it can also serve as a warning for the present and future, mobilized to ensure a free and peaceful world."

* * *

[Margaret Comer](#) is currently a Research Assistant on the project "Memories of Soviet Repressions in Post-Multi-Colonial Post-Soviet Spaces", funded by Poland's National Science Centre (Grant no. 2020/39/B/HS6/02809) and based at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw.

[Learn more](#)



LENT 2026

ENRICO CREMA, STEFANIA MERLO, REBECCA ROBERTS

Organisers

MICHAELA HEALE, DAVIDE SALARIS

Co-Organisers

Artificial Intelligence & the Past's Future

Garrod Research Seminars

A Crossroad in Human Inquiry?

AI Tales of Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Heritage Studies, and Historical Sciences

All talks will be hybrid, and can be joined online via this [Zoom link](#)

For more information, please visit talks.cam

or contact one of the team:
 E Crema erc62@cam.ac.uk
 S Merlo sm399@cam.ac.uk
 R Roberts rcr45@cam.ac.uk
 M Heale mlh75@cam.ac.uk
 D Salaris ds581@cam.ac.uk



McDonald Seminar Room

Thursdays

16:00 - 17:00

05/02 Governing the Future: Ethics, Power and Responsibility in Archaeological AI

- Alphaeus Lien - Talks, University of York

12/02 Machine Heritage: Controversies in AI-generated meanings and values of the past

- Chiara Bonacchi, University of Edinburgh

19/02 The COST Action Managing AI in Archaeology (MAIA): Building an International Network

- Holly Wright, University of York / MAIA

26/02 Between Codices, Archives and Algorithms: On How AI is Transforming Historical Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- Patricia Murrieta-Flores, Lancaster University

05/03 Palaeoclimate Forecasting and the Next Stage of AI in Archaeology

- Mark Altaaweel, University College London

12/03 TBC

- Richard McElreath, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

19/03 Fireside Chat: Roundtable Discussions & Reflections

*- Alan Blackwell, University of Cambridge
with Maya Indira Ganesh, University of Cambridge*

"When the past is always with you, it may as well be present; and if it is present, it will be future as well."

 Jack Womack

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Department of Archaeology

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research



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CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge
Heritage
Research
Centre

HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR & CONVERSATION SERIES

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site, and online

THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY, 13:00 -14:00



Participatory Encounters in Prestigious Institutions

Prestige is a powerful but often unacknowledged facet of museums and has a significant impact on how these institutions are experienced by staff, visitors, and especially by communities with whom museums are increasingly seeking to collaborate. This seminar looks at how prestige emerged for a group of young people who participated in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge as part of a practice-based PhD project. The project sought to track the young people's affective meaning making processes over this extended encounter. Prestige unfolded as a complex, mobile, and potent facet of their experience. It was intimately connected to personal and social identity; to ideas about museums and the correct ways to behave in them; and the positioning of different types of knowledge and expertise. Over the course of the project, the importance of prestige lessened as the group experienced new dimensions of the Museum's affordances, and especially systems of care, connection, and a sense of their own legitimacy and agency. This seminar thus argues that prestige is a significant part of museum encounters that needs to be attended to carefully in order to facilitate less hierarchical relations between institutions and communities.



Molly Stock-Duerdoth

Fitzwilliam Museum and University of Leicester

Molly Stock-Duerdoth is a PhD student in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester and the Fitzwilliam Museum. Her practice-based project uses affective assemblage theory to explore how a group of young people made meaning over a long term participatory encounter with the Museum. She led and co-facilitated this project, the Creative Producers, with Learning and Participation staff. Molly is also a Learning Host at Kettle's Yard, and previously completed a Classics and English BA and a Latin Literature MSt at the University of Oxford.

For information on how to attend this seminar online please visit the CHRC website
<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events>



[Learn more](#)



HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR & CONVERSATION SERIES

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site, and online

2026 LENT TERM

THURSDAYS 13:00 -14:00

29
JAN

Living Status and Millenary Fisherman: Uses of Heritage during the Venezuelan Crisis

Dr. Oliver Antczak
CHRC
University of Cambridge

05
FEB

Participatory Encounters in Prestigious Institutions

Molly Stock-Duerdoth
Fitzwilliam Museum
and University of Leicester

12
FEB

Mapping Archaeological Heritage in South Asia: Critical Reflections

Dr Rebecca Roberts & Prof Cameron Petrie
University of Cambridge

17
FEB

TBC

Dr. Dora Merai
University of Newcastle

26
FEB

Re-reading Power and Memory: The Ife Sacred Forests and Osugbo in the Era of Mining and Colonial Sculptural Economies

Oluwasola Obisesan
University of Edinburgh

05
MAR

Red Dirt Nationalism: A Discourse Analysis of the US Country Genre's Mobilization of Dirt, Soil, and Land in 21st Century Lyrics

Professor Camille Westmont
University of Alabama

12
MAR

TBC

Dr. Naomi Leite
Department of Anthropology
and Sociology, SOAS

19
MAR

Memory of Slavery and Public Engagement in Caribbean Museums: A Comparative Perspective with France and the United Kingdom

Stanley Louis
PhD Student, CY Cergy
Paris University

All seminars will also be available online please visit the CHRC website for more info
<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events>



[Learn more](#)

ICOMOS | Escuela de Primavera: Workshop on 3D Lift and Modeling of Cultural Heritage

March 9-13
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia | Online

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites



About the International Training School

The initiative is organized under the direction of the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD), Politecnico di Torino, in close cooperation with AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Escuela Taller de Cartagena, and the Municipality of Cartagena, and is held with the endorsement of CIPA Heritage Documentation.

This workshop on 3D Lift and Modeling of Cultural Heritage combines theoretical instruction and hands-on fieldwork, in order to train participants in 3D surveying and modelling of cultural heritage. Thus, they will be using integrated methods such as photogrammetry, SLAM, and UAVs. Practical activities focus on documenting the Bastion of Santo Domingo and Cartagena's UNESCO-listed city walls through supervised, small-group fieldwork and 3D model production.

The school is designed for young researchers, emerging professionals, PhD candidates, and specialists in heritage documentation. Participation is limited to 20 individuals and is free of charge. The school will provide surveying equipment and software. However, attendees are expected to bring their own laptops and digital cameras.

Programme structure includes 6 hours of online lectures in February-March. These will be followed by on-site activities, from March 9-13. Activities namely include hands-on surveying and processing in Cartagena, culminating in final group presentations and certificates of attendance. The lectures will be given in Spanish.

[Register here](#)

H Cambridge
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UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

26th Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Role of Heritage in Shaping Ontological Security in the Contemporary World

Symposium Dates: Friday 8th - Saturday 9th May 2026, McDonald Centre for Archaeological Research

Deadline for submissions: 15th February 2026



For more details and to submit a paper and or poster abstract please scan the QR code or visit our website

www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/annual-symposia

or contact the Symposium team at chrcsymposium@gmail.com.



McDonald Institute for
Archaeological Research



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European Association of Archaeologists 2026 panel | Museums and cultural heritage in the era of ‘permacrisis’

Deadline: February 5

Theme 3: Museums and cultural heritage in the era of ‘permacrisis’.

Session #219: From Distance to Attraction: Utilisation of archaeological heritage and public involvement.

Organisers: Shiting LIN (University of Cambridge); Chzoahi ZHANG (Fudan University).

Dates: 26 ~ 29 August 2026 in Athens Greece.

Abstract: While economic development has encouraged the integration of heritage into contemporary life, it has also prompted concerns, such as over-commercialisation and threats to authenticity in tourism. Nonetheless, research on branding practices referencing Neolithic archaeological heritage in China reveals a more complex picture: in economically disadvantaged areas, such practices have created new opportunities for local participation and engagement with heritage. This invites a rethinking of what “utilisation” means and how it might contribute positively to communities.

As diverse forms of heritage use emerge, ranging from study tours and branding to cultural and creative product development, the interaction between heritage and its stakeholders grows ever intricate. The public, including both local communities and external audiences, now has greater access to archaeological heritage that once seemed “distant” from everyday life, whether through work, consumption, or embodied experience.

Building on these observations, this session aims to explore how archaeological heritage is used, revitalised and experienced in contemporary contexts, and what implications this has for public involvement. We invite papers addressing (but not limited to) the following questions:

- 1) How is archaeological heritage revitalised through contemporary uses?
- 2) If possible, where should boundaries be drawn to safeguard the authenticity of heritage during its utilisation?
- 3) In what ways can underrepresented groups be included in archaeological heritage through its utilisation?
- 4) How does public understanding of heritage change through processes of involvement in heritage utilisation?

We welcome both theoretical contributions and case studies from Europe and beyond that critically examine the relationship between heritage utilisation, participation, and meaning-making.

Find more information below on [EAA 2026](#) and [submissions](#).

[Apply Here](#)



European Association of Archaeologists 2026 panel | Museums and cultural heritage in the era of ‘permacrisis’

Deadline: February 9

Theme 3: Museums and cultural heritage in the era of ‘permacrisis’.

Session #279: (Re-)presenting Asia in European museums: curating across colonial legacies, contemporary pressures and institutional pragmatics

Organisers: [Geonyoung Kim](#) (University of Cambridge); [Willem van Wijk](#) (Leiden University).

Dates: 26 ~ 29 August 2026 in Athens Greece.

Abstract:

The politics of displaying the Other in museums has been a sustained focus in anthropology, museum studies, and heritage studies, particularly related to the displaying of collections entangled with Europe’s colonial history. Conventionally, these discussions centre around restitution, the right to represent, and on how exhibitions may reinforce colonial discourses. However, these conversations often overlook the specific challenges posed by material culture from diverse Asian contexts, particularly from regions more peripheral to Europe’s colonial control. This gap limits the potential of treating Asia as a methodological concept with which to challenge Eurocentric heritage discourse. In recent decades, dedicated Asian galleries have been created in major European museums, often funded by Asian state agencies and private cooperatives. Additionally, blockbuster exhibitions, such as the V&A’s “Hallyu! The Korean Wave” (2023) and the British Museum’s China’s Hidden Century (2023), have sparked intense public debate, reviving both familiar and newly articulated questions. This increased attention to the exhibition of Asian material and cultural practices creates a space in which emerging heritage practices can be discussed.

This session invites papers that examine the opportunities and challenges that the exhibition of Asia in European museums brings to ongoing discussions of decolonising museum practices, with particular attention to material culture both within and beyond archaeological contexts. We seek contributions that address institutional pragmatics, curatorial strategy, and public perception.

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

- Visual representations of Asia’s past and present in European displays
- Institutional and practical challenges and opportunities emerge during curating Asia in European museums
- Public perceptions of Asia galleries

Keywords: visual representation, heritage practice, museum practice, Asia, decolonisation.

Find more information below on [EAA 2026](#) and [submissions](#).

[Apply Here](#)



University of Cambridge |
Holocaust Heritage
in the 21st century



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McDonald Institute
for Archaeological
Research

Deadline: March 1

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and online, University of Cambridge, UK, 7-8 September 2026

This call for papers for a conference, from which invited papers will be published in a handbook on Holocaust heritage, comes at an important juncture in time. 80 years after the Holocaust, as the survivor generation passes away, our attention turns to the sites where Jews were persecuted and murdered. We find that many sites - and with them, Holocaust memory - are facing unprecedented threats. The recently launched International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites (2024) identified 16 types of major threats, risks and challenges to the significance of Holocaust sites in the present. Such threats range from climate change to damage in armed conflict, political misappropriation to inappropriate reuse, and from lack of acknowledgement to lack of heritage legislation protection.

The aims of the conference and resulting handbook are not only to document the state of Holocaust sites and sites of the genocide of the Roma at this major anniversary, but to showcase good practice solutions as well as drawing attention to the loss, damage and destruction of other sites. This handbook will reflect on the (potential) uses of the IHRA Charter and will reflect the situation at the range of Holocaust sites listed in the Charter, such as mass graves, killing sites, concentration camps, labour camps, forced march routes, ghettos, sites of so-called 'euthanasia' and medical experimentation (etc), and to provide coverage of sites across Europe and further afield today. We welcome theoretical approaches as well as the more practical (and the digital), and equally value papers that focus on individual or multiple case studies, or situations across entire regions or countries.

It is intended that the conference in Cambridge will result in a major handbook on Holocaust heritage to be edited by Professor Gilly Carr (University of Cambridge, UK), Dr Steve Cooke (Executive Director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Australia), Tali Nates (Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre), and Dr Alexandra Janus (ESHM). The handbook will include papers by academics, heritage professionals and practitioners, Holocaust site managers and directors, activists, NGOs, and stakeholders. The approach will be interdisciplinary, with perspectives from archaeologists, historians, and those working in heritage studies, Holocaust studies and memory studies. It is intended that this handbook will be a state-of-the-art publication at this important juncture in time.

[Apply Here](#)



University of Cambridge |
Holocaust Heritage
in the 21st century



McDonald Institute
for Archaeological
Research

Deadline: March 1

Taking the IHRA Charter as our point of departure, we welcome papers on themes including (but not restricted to):

- The state / status of sites of Holocaust heritage in the 21st century in Europe today
- Theoretical and / or practical approaches to Holocaust heritage
- Intangible Holocaust heritage
- Major well-known sites or lesser-known small sites
- The temporary, transient and ephemeral sites
- The 'lost' / unmarked sites
- The controversial, disputed, denied, misappropriated and silenced sites
- Sites of the genocide of the Roma
- Sites of so-called 'euthanasia' and medical experimentation
- Archaeological approaches to Holocaust heritage
- Sites on the margins
- Sites of multiple victimhood
- Multi-phase sites
- Digital approaches to Holocaust heritage
- Sites of Nazi persecution
- Views from the field from NGOs, activists and stakeholders
- Sites of perpetrators and collaborators
- The use of sites in Holocaust education
- Post-Holocaust heritage

Deadline for expressions of interest (both of speaking at the conference, and / or submitting a chapter for the handbook): 1 March 2026

Deadline for biography (max 150 words) and abstract (max 250 words) (for either / both the conference and / or handbook): 1 May 2026

Conference: 7-8 September 2026

Submission of chapters to editors: 15 March 2027 (followed by reviews and editing)

Submission of chapters to publishers: 15 September 2027.

Contact:

- [Gilly Carr](#)
- [Steve Cooke](#)
- [Tali Nates](#)
- [Alexandra Janus](#)

[Apply Here](#)



**Call for
Papers:**

**ISDG
Symposium
2026**

Please send your abstract to
isdgcambridge@gmail.com

Submission deadline **20TH MARCH 2026**
ISDG Symposium **14TH MAY 2026**
Hybrid event



[Apply Here](#)



Call for Papers | Anthem Handbook of Critical Heritage Studies

Abstract deadline: March 31

About the handbook

The aim of the Handbook is to provide a state-of-the-art survey of current thinking and research, to set research agendas for the next few years, to highlight emerging areas of research and to provide guidance and ideas for future research activity.

Critical heritage studies (CHS) has been identifiable as a movement within academic and heritage practice for more than two decades. In 2011, the call was made to rebuilt heritage studies from the ground up, to engage in the 'ruthless criticism of everything existing' and to 'ask serious questions about the power relations that 'heritage' has all too often been invoked to sustain' (ACHS manifesto). The Handbook provides an opportunity to assess the achievements, failures and ongoing potentials of CHS and to reassess research directions and their relevance and impact on heritage, the built environment and museum policies and practices. Ideas and expressions defined as 'heritage' have become increasingly mobilised in local, national and global political movements and debates, both in the context of populist politics and progressive movements of resistance. At the same time, CHS, which are involved in the study of these phenomena, are themselves the subject of growing criticism in the broader field of heritage studies and related areas of research and practice. By denouncing the scientific materialism conveyed by the Authorized Heritage Discourse and reframing heritage studies, in many respects, within the realm of the social sciences, CHS has tended to marginalize 'traditional' heritage disciplines and practices, such as history and art history. A critical reflection on and assessment of the impact of CHS has become urgent. Insights into the interconnections between practice and theory in CHS and between CHS and public policies are needed to further develop insights and interventions into the social and political uses of heritage and its impact on identity, wellbeing, prejudice and equity, among other issues.

The editors are seeking papers that aim to provide not simply critical reflections on CHS and the different uses of heritage within different scales and contexts, but also papers that seek to move international debate forward and reconsider core concepts and assumptions. We are looking for papers that aim to facilitate ongoing self-reflexive and critically aware debate. We seek papers of around 6000 words on the following themes, although submissions on additional themes will be considered:

- What is CHS? Are there identifiable core concepts, key terms, epistemologies and values that underpin the approach, how do we map the field of debate?
- What are the ontological and epistemological tensions within CHS?



Call for Papers | Anthem Handbook of Critical Heritage Studies

Abstract deadline: March 31

- What does CHS 'mean' in different disciplinary and regional/national contexts?
- What tensions exist and remain between the Global South and North, between notions of 'expertise' and 'communities', policy makers, practitioners and researchers/academics and etc?
- How do/can traditional disciplines in both the humanities and social sciences contribute to CHS?
- How is CHS expressed in different linguistic contexts, in what ways does the dominance of Anglophone texts limit debate?
- How do we go beyond the idea of the Authorised Heritage Discourse?
 - Has the identification of the AHD materially changed anything in policy and practice?
 - Theoretically, are there more useful ways that we may express, understand and counterbalance or mitigate hegemonic practice and ideas in heritage policy and practice?
- Looking at methods and methodology: what are or could be creative ways of addressing the idea of heritage and its social consequences?
- How has CHS been translated within practice, policy and institutions?
- What have been the material consequences, if any, of CHS?
- What can CHS contribute to a politics of resistance?
- How may we understand the so-called 'soft-power' of heritage? Has this been transformed by CHS or because of CHS?
- What impact, if any, has CHS had on heritage institutions?
- How may we understand and develop the positionality of CHS scholars and practitioners with communities of interests and other stakeholders? Are there ways of usefully repositioning ideas of heritage stakeholders, including expert stakeholders, in policy and practice?
- What, if any, could be the core political values of CHS?

Submission and enquiries

Abstracts of 300 words, and a short bio of all authors and co-authors of 150 words, should be emailed to patrimoine@ugam.ca by **Tuesday March 31, 2026**.

Enquires can be direct to either Melissa (mfbaird@mtu.edu), or Laurajane (Laurajane.smith@anu.edu.au).



Call for Papers | Journal of Museum Anthropology



Abstract deadline: March 31

The Journal of Museum Anthropology, published annually by the Polish Ethnological Society, is inviting contributions. The journal has been active since 2014 and is an open access online publication, providing a platform for exchange of ideas, studies and reflection within the broad area at the intersection of museum studies and cultural anthropology.

In the 21 century, the “Age of Museums”, a critical debate on museums is a crucial issue. Our journal has been part of this debate, both reflecting on the place of anthropology and ethnology in contemporary museums, as well as discussing current issues of museum practice, its challenges, accomplishments and possible futures.

We invite museum workers and academics, activists and independent curators, and all those for whom the anthropological perspective on museums is important. We publish both museum ethnographies and theoretical studies, reports and reviews. Contributions are welcome concerning any aspect of museum practices: exhibitions, collections, museum educational activities and publications. We are interested in museum policies and museum’s cultural role in contemporary society. We also aim to develop the themes presented in earlier issues of the journal, including the section 'Responsive Museum' which is dedicated to institutions' reactions to the current social challenges.

We invite contributions for issue number 13 (2026) until March 31.

Author guidelines can be found at:
<https://apcz.umk.pl/ZWAM/about/submissions>

More information about us at:
<https://apcz.umk.pl/czasopisma/index.php/ZWAM/about/index>

We are included in the following lists and indexes:

- European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL)
- ICI Journals Master List

[Apply Here](#)

Amsterdam School for Heritage Memory and Material Culture | Annual Conference

Abstract deadline: March 27



Decoloniality is not merely an academic lens but a profound reorientation of knowledge and power. While rooted in twentieth-century South American scholarship, decoloniality now inspires a generation of scholarship and social movements. After years of vibrant scholarship and activism, we stand at a pivotal juncture. The Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM) invites scholars, practitioners, artists, and activists to reflect on what decolonial approaches have disrupted, dismantled, and dreamt anew—and to critically assess their strengths, limitations, and futures. As resurgent nationalisms and neocolonial forces challenge gains made in diversifying heritage institutions, democratising memory practices, and centring marginalised voices, how do we sustain decolonial futures that remain precarious? This international conference examines decoloniality as a transformative praxis that reshapes our engagement with heritage, memory, and material culture. We seek contributions that bridge theory and practice, addressing both the generative possibilities and the ethical impasses emerging from decolonial work.

This interdisciplinary gathering will foster dialogue through individual papers, themed panels, and roundtable discussions across diverse geographical contexts. The Organising Committee invites submissions from established scholars, early-career researchers, PhD candidates, professionals, civil society organisations, artists, and activists. We especially welcome voices from the Global South and underrepresented regions, aiming to move beyond critique toward concrete strategies for sustaining decolonial transformation worldwide.

Applications should include:

- Author name(s) and affiliation(s)
- Email address
- Paper, panel, or roundtable title
- Abstract (250 words).

Please submit your abstract (in English) as a Word document or PDF via email to our conference email: ahmannualconference@gmail.com.

Proposals can be submitted by 27 March 2026 (mid-night Central European Time).

[Learn more](#)



Heritage Call for Papers | Cultural Tourism, UNESCO Sites and 2030 Agenda: Where Are We At?

Abstract deadline:
August 31



heritage

Just 5 years from the 2030 milestone and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, our proposal intends to take stock of the codified good practices or, more simply, the experimental solutions still underway, to govern the economic development processes based on cultural tourism in sites with tangible and intangible values, starting from those recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage, to measure their carrying capacity and mitigate the impacts of their enhancement.

These could be some of the topics for which contributions could be directed:

1. Assessment of the carrying capacity of territories and sites and tools for mitigating pressures on local communities and cultural heritage;
2. Assessment of the impacts of cultural tourism;
3. Strategic planning and organization of the cultural-tourist offer;
4. Governance models, community involvement and redistribution of benefits;
5. Real estate dynamics;
6. Strategic classification of cultural assets for their enhancement as touristic resources (from a historical standpoint, too);
7. Networks;
8. New trends, new markets.

Keywords

Agenda 2030 | overtourism | best practices | UNESCO sites | cultural tourism governance | markets

Submission information

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com by [registering](#) and [logging in to this website](#). Once you are registered, [click here to go to the submission form](#). Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. All submissions that pass pre-check are peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as short communications are invited. For planned papers, a title and short abstract (about 100 words) can be sent to the Editorial Office for announcement on this website.

[Learn more](#)





Opportunities

National Trust, Kingston Lacy |
Senior Visitor Experience Officer



February 15

Closing date: 15th February 2026

Salary: £28,133

Contract type: Permanent, full-time.



About Kingston Lacy

The outstanding art collection is just one of the many attractions to this beautiful Italian-inspired mansion. The extensive garden and grounds along with the vibrant and changing programming of events and activities bring a diverse range of visitors all year round. As one of the National Trust's 'treasure houses', and with a priority for transformational growth following a major infrastructure project to improve visitor facilities, the team are ready to welcome an increased number of visitors to enjoy the 8,500-acre estate and its rare collection of artefacts. The property has a rural location, so its likely you will require your own transport to get here.

About the role

As part of the Visitor Experience team, you'll be focused on developing great visitor experiences as part of a team. This will range from creatively planning, designing and delivering events and activities for peak times such as Easter, summer and Christmas to supporting new cultural focused programming linked to the stories of Kingston Lacy. You will work to bring new event and engagement ideas to Kingston Lacy alongside constantly improving presentation standards and customer service across public facing events and activities.

You'll work alongside colleagues and volunteers in all department to ensure the smooth development and delivery of events to make sure everyone who visits has everything they need to enjoy their day. These visitors will hopefully become repeat visitors and develop an emotional connection to Kingston Lacy and the National Trust.

You'll carry out duty management as needed, and will work weekends on a rota basis. Sometimes you may need to get stuck in and help wherever you're needed, to keep the whole place running smoothly.

You'll have plenty of opportunities to talk to visitors, introducing them to all that makes Kingston Lacy so special. You may also be managing and supervising others, including volunteers.

[Learn more](#)





Opportunities

Ulster University | PhD Studentship: Developing New Pathways in Mental Health Heritage and Local Research

February 27

Closing date: 27th February 2026

Start date: September 2026

Salary: £21,000 p.a. + tuition (3 years)



Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast

This collaborative project will broaden understandings of rural mental health and local communities, emphasising institutional experiences, the role of asylums as employers, stigma and the historical nature of institutionalisation in Ireland.

It aims to develop original research into Armagh's three asylums - the District Lunatic Asylum, Retreat Loughgall and Course Lodge, Richhill – covering the period 1875-1936. Historically, the asylums served as microcosms of the societies surrounding them, reflecting the complex social relations that formed between the Famine and post-partition, inflected by considerations such as class, gender, religion and political affiliation.

The successful applicant will spend periods working at Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), developing skills in archival conservation, digitisation of records and developing a toolkit relating to using AI in archives.

Based at PRONI for 3 x 6 week blocks of time (distributed evenly across the three year studentship), the researcher will be provided with office space and professional training. The awardee will gain skills in cataloguing and making material of regional significance files more visible.

The researcher will also work collaboratively with PRONI and County Armagh Museum to develop a temporary exhibition on the region's asylums, developing innovative pathways in an under-researched area: mental health heritage.

To apply for this opportunity, a detailed and clearly defined research proposal is required along with articulate personal statement. Please note that we will only accept one application per applicant. Multiple applications will not be considered.

Essential criteria

- a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a relevant subject
- Experience using research methods or other approaches relevant to the subject domain
- A comprehensive and articulate personal statement
- Research proposal of 1500 words detailing aims, objectives, milestones and methodology of the project

[Learn more](#)





Opportunities

University of Liverpool |
MA Sustainable Heritage Management



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

September 11

Funding: Scholarships and bursaries available

About the course

If you are still considering your next steps after graduation, I would like to share a postgraduate opportunity that may be of interest to you. The Liverpool School of Architecture offers a Master's programme in Sustainable Heritage Management, fully recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), the UK's leading professional body for building conservation and the historic environment. The programme also aligns with the educational frameworks of ICOMOS, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe.

This interdisciplinary Master's is suitable for graduates from a wide range of Arts, Design, and Built Environment disciplines, including (but not limited to) Architecture, Archaeology, History, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design, Fine Art, Civil or Structural Engineering, Project Management, Quantity Surveying, and Philosophy.

If you have an interest in heritage, conservation, and the management of historic environments, this programme could be a strong next step academically and professionally.

Funding schemes

[Aziz Foundation Scholarships](#) (University of Liverpool Widening Participation and Outreach Strategy): applications must be submitted via the portal on the Aziz Foundation website.

[Barakat International Studentship](#)

[Learn more](#)





Contribute

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.

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For more information about the Heritage Research Group, visit the CHRC website:

www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre Bulletin

Editor:

Oliver Moxham
oam27@cam.ac.uk

Address:

Downing Street, Cambridge
CB2 3DZ, United Kingdom

Email

heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk

Phone:

[01223-339291](tel:01223-339291)

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