



## In this Issue

6 January 2026

### In the News

#### New publication on cultural objects post-repatriation

*Beyond Restitution: Exploring the Stories of Cultural Objects after their Return* offers a unique perspective on the return of cultural objects by considering the aftermath of the handovers.

Page 7

\*\*\*

#### Heritage Fund releases UK Heritage Pulse 2025 findings

The results reveal the impact of crime, AI and community collaboration in the heritage sector.

Page 8

### Cover Story

#### Slouching towards Caracas: Contested Fisherman Identity during the 2025 U.S. Bombings in the Southern Caribbean

by Dr Oliver Antczak

CHRC member Dr Oliver Antczak and Dr Fidel Rodriguez Velásquez discuss how the migratory heritage of fishermen in the Southern Caribbean reflects international political tensions in the region.

Read more on **Page 2**

**Cover story** 2

**News** 7

**Events** 9

**Calls** 12

**Opportunities** 19

**Contact** 23

#### Cover image:

Fishermen in Margarita celebrate the day of the Virgen del Valle in Pampatar, Venezuela  
By Diego Torres Pantin.

Editor: *Oliver Moxham*

## Slouching towards Caracas: Contested Fisherman Identity during the 2025 U.S. Bombings in the Southern Caribbean

by Oliver Antczak and Fidel Rodriguez Velásquez

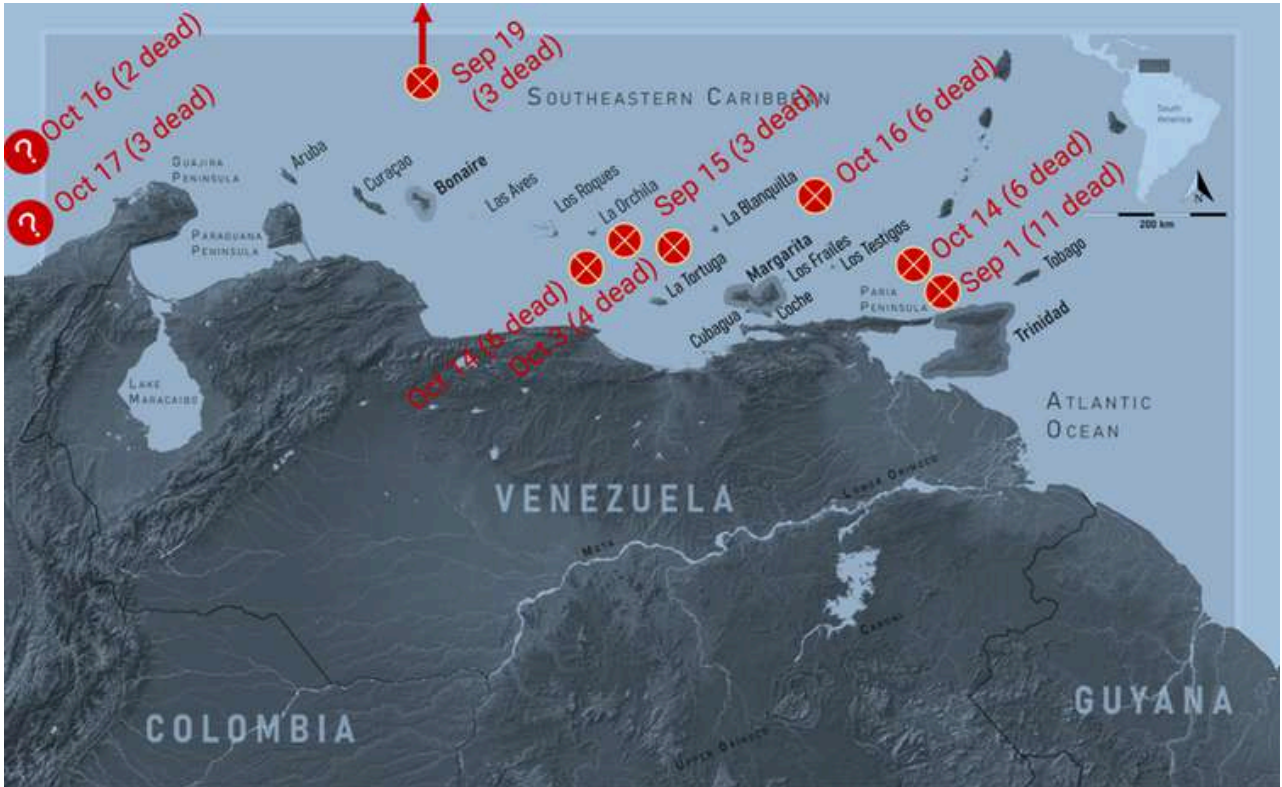


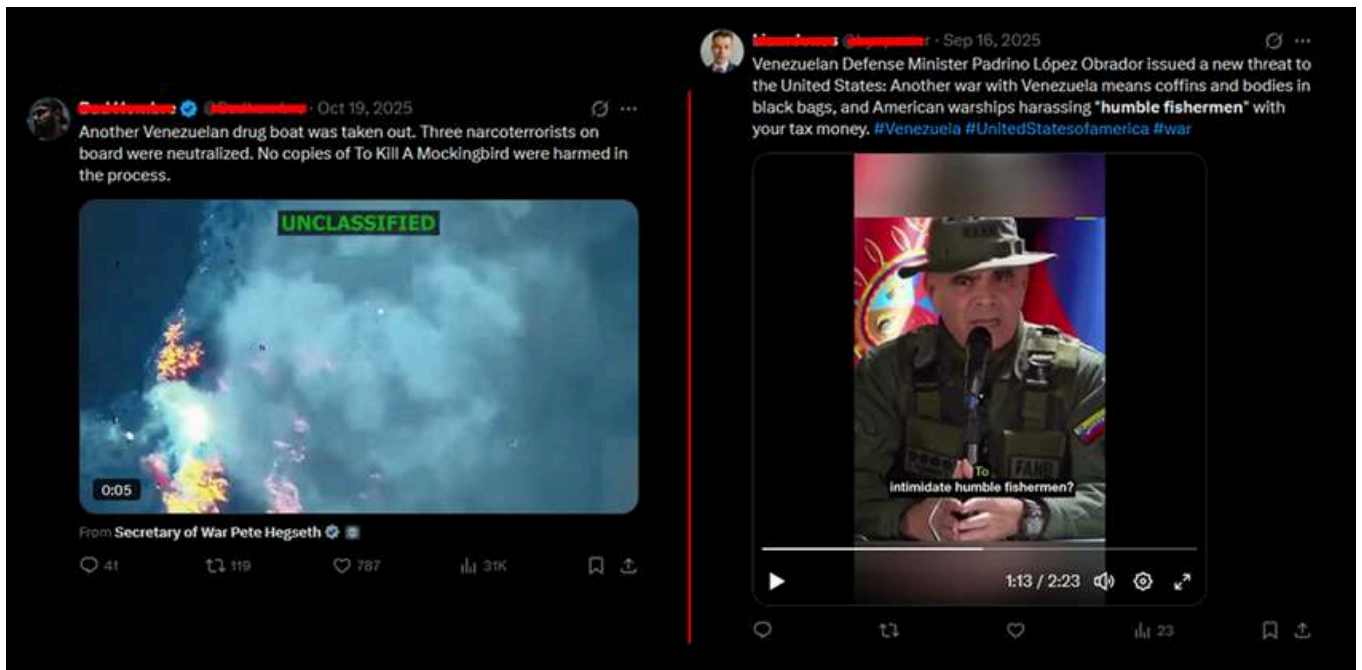
Image: Locations of US bombings in the Southern Caribbean, September and October 2025 (JAXA 2018).

My research, and that of my colleague Fidel, focuses on history and heritage of the islands of Venezuela, as well as neighbouring sister islands that belong to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) and Trinidad and Tobago. We work closely with the inhabitants of these islands, many of them fishermen, so it was with great concern that we followed these events that violently targeted the very communities and spaces that we have shared in.

A key characteristic of this bombing campaign by the U.S. that brought about much discussion online was the extrajudicial and decisive killing of the victims; the boats were blown up by powerful bombs leaving no one alive to speak for or against the accusations of ‘narcoterrorism’. The only witnesses were grainy videos that flooded social media; often a birds-eye view of a ship speeding over waves and suddenly a flare of pure white as the ship stutters and becomes fully engulfed in flames.

Tracking discourse on social media regarding these bombings revealed a ‘tug-of-war’ as to the nature of the bombed victims: were they ‘narcoterrorists’ as the U.S. leaders claimed, or instead ‘humble fishermen’ as alleged by Venezuelan government officials (see Figure 2)? This tug-of-war did not emerge in a vacuum.

Long before the U.S. strikes, Venezuelan coastal governance had already oscillated between neglect and securitized intervention, making maritime livelihoods intermittently precarious and suspect. This precarity has been most visible in the military's absolute control over fuel. The Venezuelan state's rationing of gasoline for civilian boat engines exerted continuous pressure over who has been allowed to be a 'fisherman' and who is totally immobilized. Over the months of bombings Fidel and I gathered these antecedents and online discourses and soon realized that our work on the heritage and identity of fishing communities in Margarita, Venezuela gave insight into the political uses of this identity as the conflict heated up.



*Images: Examples of the discourses from two sides on X (formerly Twitter), on the left accusations of 'narcoterrorism' while sharing a video of a bombing, on the right the Venezuelan Defense Minister asks if its worth using bombs costing millions of dollars on 'humble fishermen' (collected by authors)*

In a recent conference presentation in Leiden, the Netherlands, we argued for a "millenary history" of fishing in the Southeastern Caribbean, contending that such a phenomenon could reparatively conceive of continuities in a region ruptured by colonial violence, borders, and Indigenous erasure. By surveying archaeological, historic, and anthropological data, we drew a unified concept of how fishing has left a lasting and uninterrupted mark on the region over millennia of human occupation.

From the first humans in the region (about 7000 BP Banwari Trace, Trinidad) who relied on marine resources and left us with large middens of shells as evidence, we tracked similarities with the current day renewed practice of chipi chipi (*Donax variabilis*) and pepitona (*Arca zebra*) harvesting to deal with economic hardship in Margarita, Venezuela. These parallels result in nearly identical shell middens separated physically by only a few hundreds of meters, but temporally by thousands of years. We further argued that the social implications of the Indigenous *ranchería* practices underly the development of early colonial enterprises like the pearl

exploitation of Nueva Cádiz de Cubagua and eventually the sailing fame of turn-of-the-twentieth century Bonaireans. The practice of fishing has kept the region interconnected, for example, in the spreading of the cult of the Virgen del Valle (see Figure 3) and has co-participated in practices that have crisscrossed the region such as salt, guano, and timber extraction. Further, the fisherman identity forms a useful umbrella-identity that can safely harbour at-risk identities like the Indigenous Guaiquerí while accommodating the shifting and highly mobile practices of fishing.

Throughout millennia and into the present, the movements enabled by fishing have actively defied laws and borders; Trade, ideas, and peoples have all travelled, and continue travelling legally and illegally as parts of a traditional practice that defines the region and its inhabitants. In the Venezuelan case, this has additionally meant navigating selective enforcement and militarized coastal control, where the line between “traditional mobility” and “illicit circulation” is frequently produced through arbitrary state practices.



*Image: Fishermen in Margarita celebrate the day of the Virgen del Valle in Pampatar, Venezuela (Photo courtesy of Diego Torres Pantin).*

By tracing the heritage of this regionally important identity, we argue that we are helping return agency to the those targeted and victimized by the brutal bombing campaigns. The historic mobilities and lifestyles of the region form an ideal staging ground for the identity claims underlying decision-making by both U.S. and Venezuelan government observers. Perhaps a helpful analogy is Schrödinger's cat, a physics thought experiment which illustrates the quantum mechanics phenomenon where a radioactive atom is in two states at once: decayed and not decayed. If observed, it will switch to one of those to states, otherwise it is in both states at the same time. Crucially, the ‘observers’ in this case are state apparatuses (naval forces, intelligence, prosecutors, and official media) ) who are key producers of

classifications that carry material consequences for who is protected, or targeted. As with Schrodinger's experiment, when looking into current mobilities and practices of the region, the observer fixes a reality into one of two polarities which in fact are always intermingled. In political and online discourse (see Figure 4) these victims are either 'narcoterrorists' or 'humble fishermen', though the truth is a much more complex and situational 'Schrodinger's Fisherman', existing firmly between these two extremes.

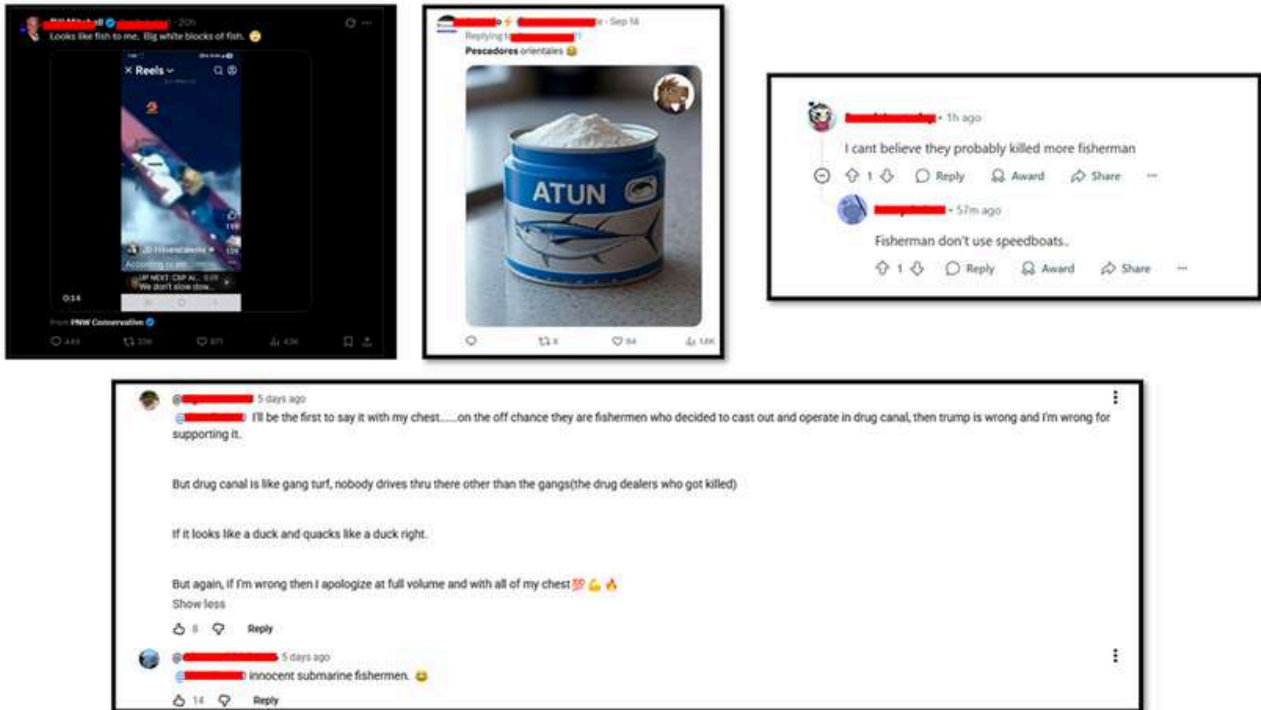


Image: Discourse collected from different social media platforms, left to right from top to bottom: X (formerly Twitter), X (formerly Twitter), Reddit, and Youtube (collected by authors).

The polarized framing, “narcoterrorists” versus “humble fishermen”, is a struggle over legibility in which both states speak about fishermen rather than treating them as historical subjects. U.S. securitization criminalizes through annihilation, while Venezuelan official discourse can absolve through idealization, turning coastal workers into symbols and obscuring longer histories of agency, governance, neglect, and selective criminalization. These moves are not morally or materially equivalent, but they are analytically connected through the politics of identity and classification.

Subsequent work by journalists has shown that there is more complexity to the issue (see [this article by APNews](#)), and has pointed away from Venezuela as a significant supplier of drugs to the U.S. (see [this article by the NYT](#)). However, the situation has since escalated into the first attack on Venezuelan soil on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 targeting an alleged drug loading dock, the seizure of oil tankers that same month, and eventually the bombings of key sites in the capital Caracas and the capture of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro by U.S. forces on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2026. The future for Venezuela is uncertain for the coming months and

years. Notably in U.S. president Donald Trump's first speech after the capture of Maduro, the matter of drug-trafficking seemed to take a backseat compared to the aim of seizing control over Venezuela's oil reserves. This new explicit focus casts a clearer light on the key role the manipulations of fishermen identities played in forming a 'narcoterrorist' threat in the buildup to the military action.

\*\*\*

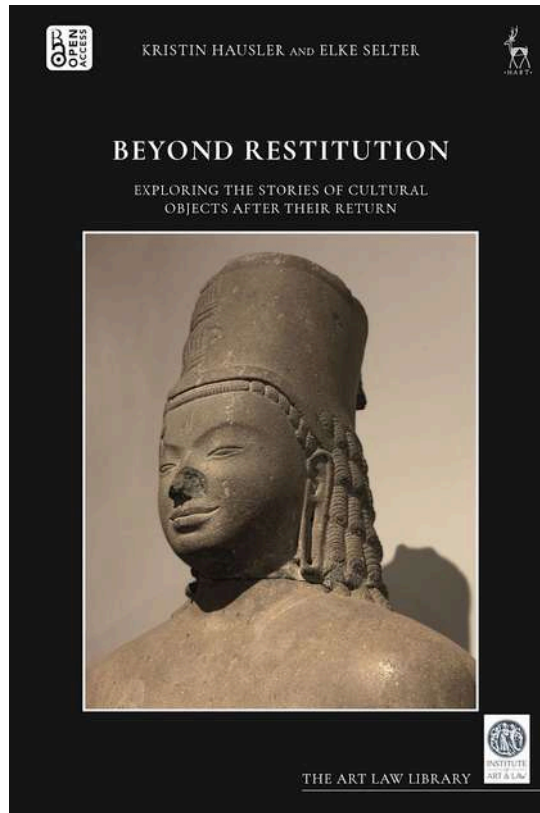
## Bio

Oliver Antczak (top) is Teaching Associate in Heritage Studies at the University of Cambridge and Fidel Rodriguez Velásquez (bottom) is Researcher at Centro de Investigaciones Históricas Antropológicas y Culturales (CIHAC AIP), Panamá. Fidel and Oliver plan to publish this work in a forthcoming paper.



---

## New publication on cultural objects post-repatriation



***Beyond Restitution: Exploring the Stories of Cultural Objects after their Return* by Kritsin Hausler and Elke Selter (2025).**

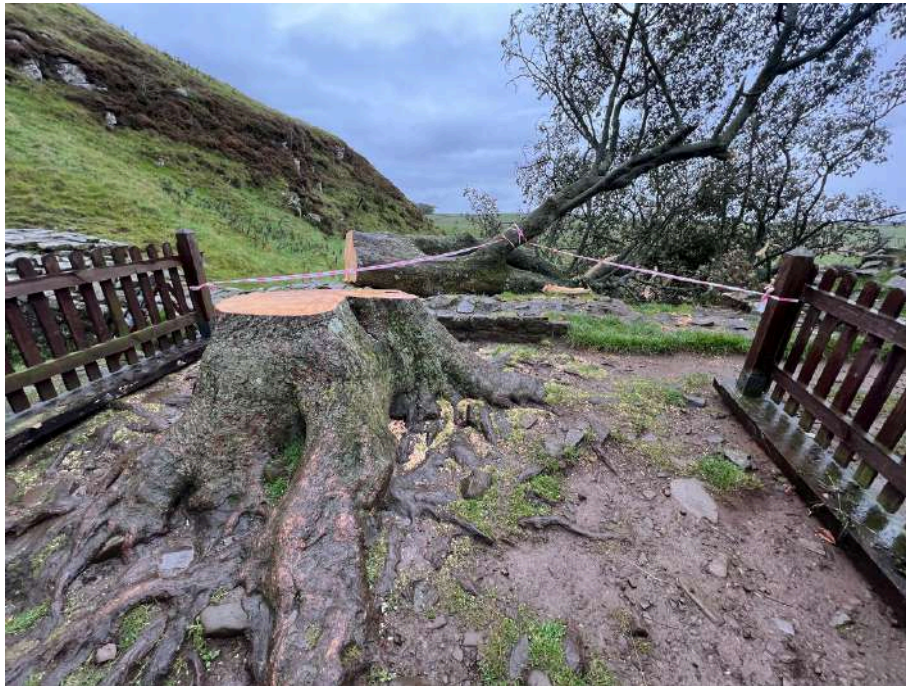
This open access book offers a unique perspective on the return of cultural objects by considering the aftermath of the handover processes.

While calls for the repatriation of heritage have been made since the start of the decolonisation process, it is only in recent years that the debate on returning cultural objects has gained widespread prominence. This has been followed by ongoing efforts from several countries to change the legislation, adopt principles, and invest in provenance research to turn repatriation into a more proactive mechanism.

The book tells the story of cultural objects that were housed in European institutions and returned to countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In addition to in-depth analysis of relevant laws and policies, each of the case studies integrates interviews with those who were directly involved in those return processes, as well as those who were impacted by them, including museum staff, government representatives and community members. The book presents previously unheard insights into past return processes, the manifold modalities that such processes have followed, and, at times, unexpected outcomes. By doing so, it offers possible lessons to be learnt for future returns.

[Learn more](#)

## Heritage Fund releases UK Heritage Pulse 2025 survey findings



*Image: Heritage vandalism, such as the felling of the Sycamore Gap tree, features prominently in the survey.*

*“Aftermath of vandalism” by [Wandering wounder](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0).*

UK Heritage Pulse is a collaborative research project for the UK’s heritage sector, informing strategy, recovery and reinvention. It’s one of the ways the Heritage Fund keeps in touch with the changing needs and ambitions of the sector, so they can deliver on the vision of [our Heritage 2033 strategy](#). This year, the Heritage Fund community has taken part in surveys exploring the future of the heritage sector, sharing insights that demonstrate the pace of change and how organisations are adapting to challenges and thriving. This year’s findings include:

- 39% of respondents reported that their site had experienced intentional damage, with 31% also identifying examples of anti-social behaviour.
- More than 60% of heritage sector workers now believe AI offers more opportunities than risks for their organisations – a jump of 20% since 2023.
- 90% of respondents believed their work gains greater relevance when co-created with local communities and tended towards the view that it’s key to actively address inequality and exclusion in how stories are told.

[Learn more](#)



## Museum Association | Breaking Barriers: Radical Curatorial Practice

January 28, 11am - 4pm  
Online



### About the Event

With the growth in participatory practice and the drive to tell wider and more inclusive stories with our collections, this event explores how the role of the curator is evolving.

Using a mix of provocations, panel discussions and breakout forums, speakers will explore...

- The skills to create dynamic, engaging and exciting exhibitions and displays
- How to bring new voices and expertise to curation
- Ideas for tackling urgent contemporary concerns
- Ways to reflect the changing nature of our communities
- Creating a sense of place, identity and wellbeing for audiences.

You will benefit from this one-day conference if you...

- Work in any area of curatorial practice
- Design exhibitions
- Have collections management responsibilities
- Are a curator at a smaller organisation
- Connect with communities in your role
- Work in learning and engagement
- Lead the curatorial vision at your museum.

**Fees:** Non-member: £67 | Member: £46

Concessionary member: £36 | Free inclusion places available

[Register here](#)

## University of Liverpool | Lessons from the Past

January 28, 11am - 4pm  
Online



### About the Event

Registration has opened for “Lessons from the Past 2026”, a hybrid conference hosted by the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology, in partnership with the interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Research (ICSR), and the Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2026.

World leading experts from a range of disciplines are lined up to deliver inspiring concrete recommendations on solving today's problems with their expertise of the past.

Delegates will be asked to vote on their top three recommendations at the conclusion of day 1, with day 2 dedicated to poster presentations and discussion rooms to explore the three selected talks in more detail.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, we are able to offer Early Bird discounts (£15!) until the start of 2026. In person ticket price includes full conference access, refreshments, lunch on both days, and access to the wine reception at the end of day one. Unfortunately, no other associated costs can be covered. Online ticket price only includes online access to the talks on day 1, as all activities on day 2 necessitate in person attendance.

Abstract submission has closed, but poster submissions remain open until the end of January.

[Register here](#)

March 11-13  
Online

**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites



### About the Event

The ICOMOS CIF 2026 Symposium will discuss both about the state-of-the art and the current challenges in Urban and Architectural Conservation, including the implementation of the Council of Europe's 1985 Granada Convention and the 2024 EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), and their implications and current status in policy, education and training, locally and globally. The Symposium and study tours are particularly addressed to policy and decision-makers, educators and students. The results from the ongoing ICOMOS CIF GACETS (Global Architectural Conservation Education and Training Survey) project and the complete writings by Architect Maria Letizia CONFORTO will be also presented. The outcomes from the Symposium will inform ICOMOS CIF priorities for the coming years.

### About CIF, the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Education and Training

ICOMOS CIF leads research and promotes international cooperation in the field of education and training for the understanding, protection, conservation and management of built heritage, historic sites and cultural landscapes. It works on the advancement of greater understanding of such heritage, and the appropriate approaches, intervention criteria, technologies and management for its conservation, and advises on the development of ICOMOS programs in this field, and at all levels of education and training.

[Register here](#)

---

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium

Abstract deadline: February 15

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre is excited to announce and share the Call for Papers for the 26th annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium, which will take place between the **8th-9th May 2026** at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

The annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium (CHS) was set up in 1996 as a forum for discussing and sharing ideas, questions, and case studies arising from working with or studying heritage. Past CHS have been instrumental to recognizing the varied forms of heritage, the wide-ranging interest in the field, and the many ways heritage is being studied and practiced – confirming the centrality of this field and the many areas it contributes to.

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



*Image: A repaired celadon lotus bowl, from 'Kintsugi - The Poetic mind' (Bonnie Kemske, 2021)*

In her 2007 seminal paper, Jane Grenville argued about the significance of built environment for ontological security and invited us to reflect on how heritage contributes to our everyday living. Recent economic, environmental and political crises, urban gentrification, wars, and the shifting dynamics of the global landscape, along with the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, prompt us to reconsider the role that heritage plays in fostering ontological security, or the security of being.



Ontological security provides individuals, communities and societies with modes of survival during periods of political, social, economic, and cultural upheaval. Heritage offers reassurance of belonging, identity, and a shared past, which are essential for ensuring a hopeful future.

We invite contributions for a two-day conference focused on the topic of heritage and ontological security and how it relates to ideas of reconciliation and commemoration. Our emphasis will be on resilience, a sense of belonging to a place and/or community, and well-being as integral components of emotional and physical safety.

The topics we invite the participants to focus on are identity, belongings, shared past reconciliation and commemoration.

This year the CHRC is joining forces with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. The symposium (CHS26) will be supported by the McDonald Institute for Archaeology, the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the A.G. Leventis Foundation.

### **Submission guidelines**

We welcome proposals from all disciplinary backgrounds that address how heritage in all its forms contributes to ontological security on individual, communal, national, and international scales.

We aim to turn a selection of conference papers into a publication.

Please submit an abstract of **no more than 300 words** by **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026** to the organisers at [chrscopysium@gmail.com](mailto:chrscopysium@gmail.com).



## Arab-German Young Academy | A Global History of Collecting: Objects, Institutions, and Knowledge Practices across Cultures

Abstract deadline: January 31



### Call for Contributions

Following up on the international AGYA conference “Collecting as Cultural Practice: Collecting Cultures and Object Itineraries in Eurasia and the MENA region”, AGYA members PD Dr habil. [Phillip Grimberg](#) and Dr. [Ghada Mohamed](#) are delighted to invite contributions for an edited volume that rethinks the global history of collecting through the lens of the sociology of knowledge. This interdisciplinary book project seeks to examine collecting not merely as a cultural or aesthetic activity, but as epistemological practices – a powerful epistemic mechanism through which institutions and individuals across the globe have shaped systems of value, identity, memory, and authority.

By focusing on the “social lives of objects” and their role in the production, circulation, and contestation of knowledge, this volume interrogates collecting practices from antiquity to the digital age, encompassing contexts as diverse as African royal courts, East Asian philosophical traditions, indigenous American rituals, Islamic manuscript culture, and contemporary digital heritage.

### Aims and Scope

We aim to bring together contributions from scholars of diverse disciplinary, regional, and methodological backgrounds to explore how collections – whether royal treasuries, ethnographic cabinets, temple inventories, or digital repositories – construct, stabilise, and transmit forms of knowledge.

In bringing these perspectives into dialogue, the volume proceeds from the recognition that acts of collecting are always embedded within broader historical, political, social and cultural frameworks. Understanding collecting in this way reveals its entanglement with diverse spheres, including:

- Epistemic and cultural authority
- Colonial and imperial histories
- Religious and philosophical worldviews
- The politics of memory and restitution
- Institutional and state-building processes
- Digital transformation and algorithmic curation

The scope of the volume is comparative and transregional in nature, covering a wide range of regions and contexts.

[Learn more](#)



## Palgrave Macmillan | Palgrave Studies in Cultural Heritage and Conflict

palgrave  
macmillan

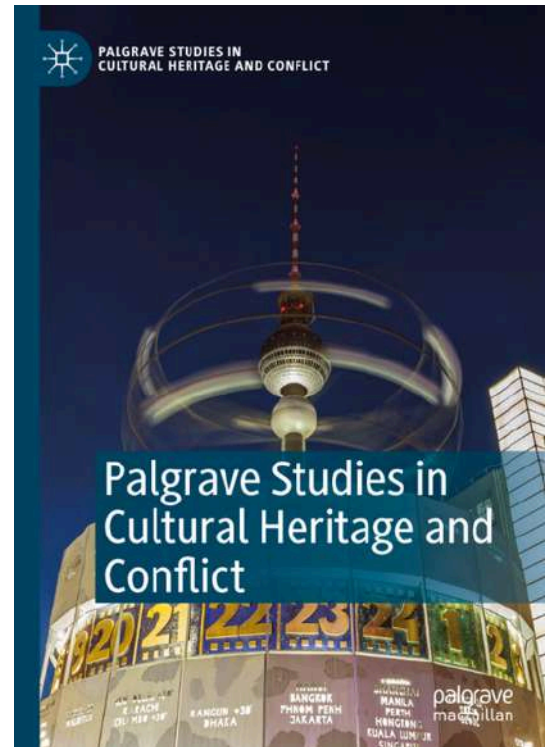
**Series editors:** Ihab Saloul & Britt Baillie

This book series explores the relationship between cultural heritage and conflict. The key themes of the series are the heritage and memory of war and conflict, contested heritage, and competing memories. The series editors seek books that analyze the dynamics of the past from the perspective of tangible and intangible remnants, spaces, and traces as well as heritage appropriations and restitutions, significations, musealizations, and mediatizations in the present. Books in the series should address topics such as the politics of heritage and conflict, identity and trauma, mourning and reconciliation, nationalism and ethnicity, diaspora and intergenerational memories, painful heritage and terrascapes, as well as the mediated reenactments of conflicted pasts.

View books in the series [here](#).

Contact Senior Editor Camille Davies to discuss your book idea at [camille.davies@palgrave.com](mailto:camille.davies@palgrave.com).

Submit a book proposal to the series [here](#).



[Learn more](#)

Abstract deadline: February 2

### Digital Archives: Agency, Activism, and Contestation

edited by Britt Baillie, Merit Maran, Mario Panico and Marjolein Uittenbogaard

Across memory and heritage studies, the archive has long been a central concern as an institution of recordkeeping, preservation and actualization of the past. In the digital age, producing and maintaining the archive takes place beyond traditional heritage institutions. Today, the 'archive' has become a metaphor, used to denote a variety of websites, databases, social media outlets and personal cloud storage with archival functions.

Yet these archival sites are far from neutral. Indeed, they have become contested spaces and at times even spaces of conflict, where emerging forms of digital activism challenge established hegemonic narratives and shape how heritage is represented and negotiated. However, algorithmic interference, virtual echo chambers, and the governing power of platforms reveal a pressing question in our engagement with digital archives: who has agency in the digital archive, and how may the archive itself act as an agent?

This special issue, developed as part of the Horizon Europe Twinning project DIGHT-Net, critically examines how digital technologies transform the semiotic capacities of the archive and decentralize the human as sole arbiter of preservation. Contributors explore the interplay between archives, agents and activists, for instance, through theoretical reflections on human and non-human agencies and emotional affordances in the archive, including those of the archivist, the heritage community and the user, as well as the role of the (virtual) museum as an archival agent.

The issue also welcomes practical perspectives on agency in the digital archive that consider the 'politics of digitization' influencing what cultural heritage is made available in the digital space; the (absence) of ecological agency in enabling the digital data repositories; and the pitfalls and potential that digital heritage poses in rectifying or reinforcing global power and information asymmetries. Moreover, it invites case-study approaches on the agencies of non-human actors in the digital archive, including those of generative AI and commercial platforms, and how these dynamics mediate, amplify or distort online and offline processes of conflict, security, democracy, and peace.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of **no more than 500 words**, together with a **150-word biography**, by the **2nd of February 2026**.

[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](mailto: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](http://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

University of Gothenburg |  
Senior Lecturer in Cultural Heritage



January 15

**Closing date:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Conditions:** Must speak Swedish (or other Scandinavian language).

## Role description

The position of senior lecturer includes teaching and supervision in the main field of cultural heritage as well as in one of the main areas of history, archaeology or ancient culture and social life. We are looking for a person who can be a driving force in the development of cultural heritage as the main field of both within the framework of the department's current educational offering and with a view to the development of new courses and programmes. The role also requires research, administration, course planning, development work and information and collaboration with the surrounding society. Tutoring and teaching at the postgraduate level may also occur.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants must have completed a doctoral degree in history, archaeology or ancient culture and social sciences, or have competence that the employer deems to be equivalent, and possess a documented research and educational competence in the main field of cultural heritage. Documented good ability to teach in Swedish (alternatively Scandinavian) and English is a requirement.

## Application

The application must be written in Swedish (or other Scandinavian language), and contain:

- A personal application letter.
- A scientific and educational report that each describes your qualifications.
- A CV that in point form clearly describes your scientific, pedagogical, administrative and other relevant qualifications.
- Certified certificates of degrees, employment and completed university pedagogical courses.
- A complete publication list.
- A maximum of 10 scientific publications (including the thesis).
- Examples of possible educational publications (e.g. teaching materials), and/or other documents that highlight the pedagogical skills (maximum 10 documents).
- Contact information for three academic reference persons.

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

Durham University | Professor of Cultural and Natural Heritage

January 31

**Salary:** £73,711 p.a.



## The post and Heritage 360

As part of Durham University's strategic Heritage 360 initiative, the Department of Archaeology seeks to appoint an outstanding candidate to the role of Professor of Cultural and Natural Heritage. The successful applicant will have an outstanding research record with evidence of substantial grant capture, collaborative working within and beyond academia, and agenda-setting leadership in the fields of archaeology and heritage research, practice and evidence-based policy. In addition, the candidate will display evidence of innovative teaching of heritage and archaeology at postgraduate level and a proven commitment to academic citizenship.

## The post

The Department of Archaeology at Durham University seeks to appoint a talented individual to the role of Professor of Cultural and Natural Heritage. We welcome applications from those with research and teaching interests that integrate the fields of cultural and natural heritage with archaeology. We are particularly eager to hear from applicants with a focus on how research can mobilise traditional technologies and knowledge systems in natural and cultural landscape management and collaborate and undertake co-production with a range of non-academic stakeholders in heritage management. The post-holder will have a track record of delivering evidence-based approaches, transcending disciplinary boundaries with evidence of success in securing funding from relevant bodies, and potential to secure significant external income in the future. The post-holder will also have led internationally significant field projects, examining aspects of research into integrating cultural and natural heritage with archaeology. Evidence of leadership in practice and translating research into management plans or evidence-based policy making domains, and stakeholder engagement through equitable partnerships, is also welcomed. This post offers an exciting opportunity to work in a research-intensive department with colleagues working across heritage science, museum studies, conservation, heritage management and archaeology.

## Key responsibilities:

- To undertake research that integrates the fields of cultural and natural heritage with archaeology and is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour, commensurate with the Department's continuing emphasis on international excellence.
- To make a world-leading contribution to the development of successful research project proposals in pursuit of suitable major UK and international funding opportunities.

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

University of Hull | PhD Studentship - Signs of the Sea

February 1



**Start date:** September 2026

**Salary:** £21,196 p.a.

## Project description

Coastal towns and cities are liminal spaces, defined by the threshold between land and sea and shaped by the interplay between natural and built environments. In northern England, maritime centres such as Hull, Scarborough, and Blackpool have long been defined by their relationship with water. Once vibrant centres of tourism, trade, and industry, many of these places now face social and environmental challenges including economic decline, coastal erosion, and the effects of climate change. Yet their visual and narrative cultures remain powerful expressions of resilience, belonging, and adaptation. This practice-based PhD explores how creative communication, through design, film, writing, and heritage practice, can document and reimagine the identities of coastal communities in times of transformation. By examining the visual, material, and narrative Signs of the Sea, the project investigates how everyday design and storytelling traditions articulate the ways people live with, remember, and imagine bodies of water. Drawing on methodologies from graphic design, film, and environmental humanities, the research will combine fieldwork, archival study, and creative production to investigate how coastal culture is visually and narratively expressed. The project will analyse artefacts such as shopfront typography, fairground art, hand-painted signage, photography, filmic imagery, and local storytelling to understand how they construct community identity and memory. These objects and narratives will reveal how proximity to the sea shapes aesthetic practices, local economies, and collective imagination. A core aim is to work collaboratively with local and regional partners, such as museums, archives, heritage organisations, and community groups, to co-create new forms of coastal storytelling. The researcher will engage communities through participatory workshops, oral history, and design-based research to collect and reinterpret materials that reflect their relationship with water. These participatory methods will ensure the project is both academically rigorous and socially grounded, situating creative practice as a tool for engagement, reflection, and resilience.

Ultimately, Signs of the Sea is about more than the preservation of coastal heritage; it is about imagining futures in which culture and environment are intertwined. By engaging with the textural environment, typographies, and coastal life stories, the researcher will create a body of work that not only reflects but also participates in the living culture of the sea.

Through this, the project demonstrates how creative practice can help coastal communities live well with water: building resilience, sustaining identity, and shaping new narratives of belonging at the edge of land and sea.

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

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

February 27

**Closing date:** 27<sup>th</sup> 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](#)





## 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.

## Subscribe

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](mailto:heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk)).

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

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

# Cambridge Heritage Research Centre Bulletin

### Editor:

Oliver Moxham  
[oam27@cam.ac.uk](mailto:oam27@cam.ac.uk)

### Address:

Downing Street, Cambridge  
CB2 3DZ, United Kingdom

### Email

[heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk](mailto:heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk)

### Phone:

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

### Bulletin Archive:

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

### Social Media:

Instagram: [cambridge\\_heritage](https://www.instagram.com/cambridge_heritage)  
Facebook: [cambridgehrg](https://www.facebook.com/cambridgehrg)  
LinkedIn

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email [heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk](mailto:heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk)