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by *Oliver Moxham*

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Image: [Centaur and Lapith \(detail\)](#), Parthenon Marbles by [JustinMN](#) (CC BY 2.0).

Performing repatriation: public and institutional responses to the stalled return of material heritage

by Oliver Moxham



Image: *Centaur and Lapith (detail), Parthenon Marbles* by [JustinMN](#) (CC BY 2.0).

Within the heritage sector, few topics are more contentious than that of repatriation, or the return of illegitimately acquired material heritage to their country of origin. The issue sees national governments make competing claims for the right of ownership over culturally and financially valuable collections, raises national responsibility for historical colonial violence, and tests national and international legal frameworks. Naturally, the process of repatriation can take decades to resolve (if a resolution can be reached), all the while leaving those seeking the return of their material culture in painful limbo. Private institutions, [such as the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology](#) (MAA) here in Cambridge, have been able to avoid the legal entanglement with national government that comes with public funding and have led the way in returning items to their places of origin through direct collaboration with stakeholders. However, this cover story considers how individuals and institutions perform the repatriation process where coveted items remain indefinitely abroad.

Exhibiting negative space: the Acropolis Museum

The Elgin Marbles, a.k.a. the Parthenon Marbles, have been a high-profile example of the issue of repatriation. The marbles were removed from the Athens Acropolis between 1801-1812 by Lord Elgin with approval from the ruling Ottomans and sold to the British Museum in 1816 where they have remained since. Following the fall of the Ottomans and establishment of Greece as an independent nation in 1830, Greek authorities have pursued the return of the marbles since 1836, claiming they were illegally obtained and are of great importance to Greek culture. Formal dialogue

between the Greek and British governments has been pursued since 1983 with no items returned. The 2022 Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan claimed repatriation was a threat for British museums, stating “once you start giving one back, where does it end?”, prioritising preservation over decolonisation of museum collections. The British Museum continues to take a universalist approach, claiming “its commitment to be a world museum” necessitates preserving the diversity of its collection, where all can be seen by “the widest possible public”.

With no end to negotiations in sight, the Greek government has made the dispute a public display in the purpose-built Acropolis Museum. The museum displays what marbles remain in Greek possession before a skyline view of the original temple. However, incomplete sections have been deliberately left on display as a means of drawing attention to the continued absence of the Elgin Marbles. The powerful use of negative space reminds visitors of the ongoing legacy of colonial violence, keeping the matter in the forefront of public consciousness until the marbles are returned.



Image: Blank spaces remind visitors of Parthenon marbles awaiting repatriation (CC-BY-2.0).

Relooting: performing virtual decolonisation

African heritage has been at the forefront of repatriation debates given the extensive looting and export of the continent’s material culture during the Scramble for Africa (1870-1914) which saw 90% of the landmass colonised by European imperial powers. Renowned collections such as the Benin Bronzes, taken during the 1897 Sack of Benin by British imperial forces, have seen repatriation by institutions across Europe, with 1,100 returned by Germany last July and another 116 by the MAA confirmed for transfer this year. Many remain abroad, however, including approximately 900 at the British Museum which have no plans to be returned.

Some frustrated by the slow process of repatriation have taken to other platforms to perform the process themselves. South African game company Nyamakop has parodied the legal frustrations of contemporary repatriation in their new African-futurist game, *Relooted*. With the tagline, “is it stealing to take back what was stolen?”, the game is set in 2099 and follows an African heist team who seek to “liberate” 70 real-world African artefacts held in “Western museums”. The premise of a “Transatlantic Returns Treaty” which sees “museums pulling shady moves” to avoid returning African collections is a direct satire of the arduous legal and diplomatic obstacles associated with heritage repatriation, especially where the legal frameworks for heritage repatriation were designed by the very powers who hold the collections (see [McGuire 1990](#)). The game offers a novel interim solution for those frustrated with the high politics of cultural heritage, offering a chance to simulate direct intervention while also informing players of real African material heritage awaiting repatriation today.

Aimed broadly at the African diaspora, *Relooted* demonstrates how the significance of looted heritage is not limited to just the nations and institutions asserting ownership, but also matters to those with more tangential ties to the victim culture, as well as those generally craving swifter action around decolonising and repatriating museum collections. With public discourse around repatriation growing stronger, it remains to be seen how novel expressions of public support for repatriation will influence the real-world process.

Image: A player in Relooted learns the history and cultural origins of the Yehoti Mask (Nyamakop 2026).



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. See his [ORCID profile](#) for more details.



US proposal submitted to preserve International Space Station for “future reuse”



Image: "Released to Public: International Space Station Above Earth, December 2006 (NASA)," by pingnews.com.

The United States Congress has seen an amendment submitted last week to reconsider the future of the International Space Station (ISS). The station has been a unique space for international scientific collaboration and zero-gravity experiments for 27 years and is approaching the end of its lifespan for safe use. The ISS is currently scheduled to de-orbit in 2031 (15 years past its original expiry date), burning up in the atmosphere before crashing into the Pacific Ocean like most decommissioned orbiting craft. However, [Amendment 36](#) to the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2026 has requested an alternative be found that preserves the historic craft once it is no longer safe to inhabit.

The amendment cites the potent symbolism of the craft for international scientific collaboration, as well as the enormous costs that went into its construction and maintenance (\$100-150 billion to date), as reasons for finding further use beyond 2031. If moved to “safe orbital harbor”, the ISS could be used for further research, such as how long orbiting habitation craft can continue to function before critical failure, but the station also has archaeological value and potential as a heritage site. Professor Alice Gorman, a.k.a. [Dr Space Junk](#), has already collaborated with NASA to conduct the [SQuARE archaeological survey](#) of the station. Some journalists have speculated on its [future as the first space museum](#), which raises the question: if a heritage site is made which no-one can visit, can it be called heritage? In any case, the amendment has certainly opened up the possibility of the ISS’s heritagisation.

[Learn more](#)

New UNESCO article considers the role of democracy in the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention



Image: Logo of Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

We are pleased to share that a new research article by UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Public and Global Governance team (Julia Krzesicka-Haberko and Hanna Schreiber) has been published online in the *International Journal of Heritage Studies* (4 January 2026): [“Where is ‘democracy’ in ‘the most democratic heritage treaty’? An investigation of the 2003 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention”](#).

The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is often described as UNESCO’s most democratic treaty, largely because it formally recognises communities as key actors in safeguarding. But what does “democracy” actually mean in this governance system—and how is it practiced, invoked, and interpreted by different actors, especially in a context of global democratic backsliding? Our article proposes a structured way to “locate” democracy in the Convention by distinguishing four meanings of the term:

- democracy as a political regime,
- democratic governance as a set of UN-supported values,
- democratisation of culture (egalitarian access to cultural goods and institutions), and
- cultural democracy (the right of communities and individuals to define and shape culture on their own terms).

Using the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework, we trace how these understandings appear across operational, collective-choice, and constitutional levels of governance. The findings show distinct configurations: democracy tends to emerge as community practice at the operational level, as procedure in intergovernmental decision-making at the collective-choice level, and as a normative value at the constitutional level.

We hope this article will contribute to ongoing conversations on participation, legitimacy, and power in international heritage regimes.

[Learn more](#)





Annual Heritage Lecture 2026

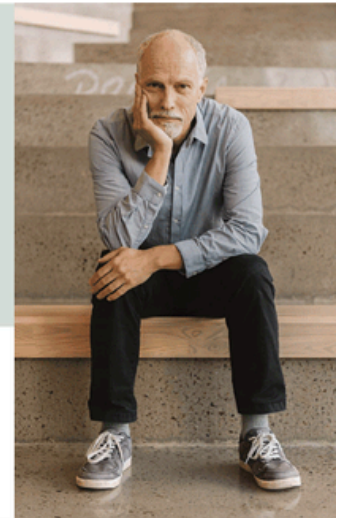


Decolonising The Future:

*From Preserving Memory across Generations
to Sustaining the (Re-)Generation of Memory*

Professor Cornelius Holtorf

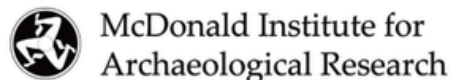
UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures
Linnaeus University in Kalmar, Sweden



18:15, Friday 20th February 2026

Frankopan Hall, West Court, Jesus College, Cambridge

Attendance is free, but please register to attend at www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events



[Register here](#)



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:

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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

HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP SEMINAR & CONVERSATION SERIES

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

TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY, 13:00 -14:00

Cultural Heritage in Conflict-Related Recovery: Planning and Practice in Ukraine

Cultural heritage in Ukraine has been in the global spotlight since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Ukrainian and international actors have launched numerous initiatives to safeguard heritage sites from military destruction, in line with the frameworks of intergovernmental organisations such as UNESCO and ICOMOS and supported by a growing body of academic research. At the



Odessa Opera and Ballet Theatre (Odessa, Ukraine). Photo: Konstantin Brizhnichenko, 2019. CC BY-SA 4.0 (Wikimedia Commons)

same time, heritage has figured in another debate that emerged from the first months of the war: how to rebuild the country's economy, society, and environment while laying foundations for long-term development. Existing scholarship and global policy frameworks link heritage to reconciliation and peacebuilding, at the same time, acknowledging its complex role in generating and fuelling conflict and therefore calling for its "disarmament". Yet such approaches presuppose a post-conflict moment. What happens in conditions of hybrid or "forever" war, without clear temporal or geographical boundaries, where reconstruction unfolds alongside ongoing violence? How can cultural heritage be mobilised constructively when even the language of reconciliation may appear inappropriate or offensive to those directly affected by war? This lecture addresses these questions through a critical analysis of recent Ukrainian recovery policies and practices, examining how cultural heritage is being mobilised, reframed, and contested in a context where war and reconstruction proceed simultaneously.



Dr Dóra Mérai

Dr Dóra Mérai is Lecturer in Heritage and Museum Studies at Newcastle University. Her research focuses on built heritage and its adaptive reuse at the intersection of critical heritage studies and urban planning, with particular attention to Central and Eastern Europe. She examines how dissonant heritage and contested memory operate both as sources of conflict and as resources for recovery in societies undergoing crisis and structural transformation. Her work explores, in particular, the material and immaterial legacies of the industrial past in post-socialist contexts and the role of cultural heritage in contemporary recovery planning in Ukraine.

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



[Learn more](#)

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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****Cultural Heritage in Conflict-Related Recovery:**
Planning and Practice in Ukraine**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 LeiteDepartment 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 UniversityAll seminars will also be available online please visit the CHRC website for more info
<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events>[Learn more](#)

Lent Term 2026



Asia's Archaeology and Heritage Group

Online meeting links are updated at:

<https://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/190270>



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McDonald Institute for
Archaeological Research

18 Feb 2026 13.00-14.00

The Diplomatic Heritage of 'Malay' Letters in Manila: Towards Rethinking Philippine Colonial History

Dr Ariel Lopez, University of the Philippines

Online: <http://bit.ly/3ZEJz0s>

11 March 2026 13.00-14.00

"The Low-water Mark... Throughout the Whole of the Empire": The Peculiar Development of Early Museums in Colonial Hong Kong

Dr Reynold K. W. Tsang, City University of Hong Kong

Online: <https://bit.ly/46dQEZA>

18 March 2026 13.00-14.00

Museums as Sites of Moral Ambivalence: Intersecting Heritage and Vice

Professor Hamzah Muzaini, National University of Singapore

Online: <https://bit.ly/4qHAj6S>

Organisers: Geonyoung Kim gyk20@cam.ac.uk Junting Lyu jl2265@cam.ac.uk

[Learn more](#)



Lent Term 2026

Asia's Archaeology and Heritage Group

18 Feb 2026 13.00-14.00



The Diplomatic Heritage of 'Malay' Letters in Manila: Towards Rethinking Philippine Colonial History



Ariel Lopez
University of the Philippines

Through the lens of selected--hitherto understudied--'Malay' (i.e., written in Jawi) letters stored at the National Archives of the Philippines, this lecture foregrounds new narratives of Philippine and Southeast Asian diplomatic histories in the 18th and 19th centuries. It underscores the embeddedness of Spanish Philippines in regional diplomacy and politics often overshadowed by narratives of imperial expansionism and Hispano-centrism. It invites further investigation into the role of translators, local mediators and local traditions of 'indigenous' diplomacy with which Spanish imperial agents had to navigate. This presentation underscores the significance of these 'indigenous' written sources not only as historical sources but also as unique tangible heritage.

Ariel Lopez teaches courses on Philippine and Southeast Asian history and culture at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines. His research focus is on the early modern history of the indigenous polities in the southern Philippines (Mindanao and Sulu) and eastern Indonesia (Sulawesi) and their interactions with European empires, namely, Spanish and Dutch.

Online: <http://bit.ly/3ZEJz0s> contact: gyk20@cam.ac.uk

ZOOM ID:825 4399 4244 PW:739911



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[Learn more](#)



Cambridge Industrial Archaeology
Group | The Watermills and Landscape
of the River Great Ouse, Cambridgeshire

Cambridge
Industrial Archaeology
Society



March 9
Cambridge Museum of Technology



Rachel Flanagan and Keith Grimwade will be sharing their research on the long history of water milling on the River Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire, which stretches back to at least the 10th century. The talk is based on their book which was published last year.

The speakers will analyse why the watermills on the Great Ouse were the most valuable in England in 1086, and demonstrate that many landscape features, previously thought to be natural, are in fact the result of channel engineering for these mills.

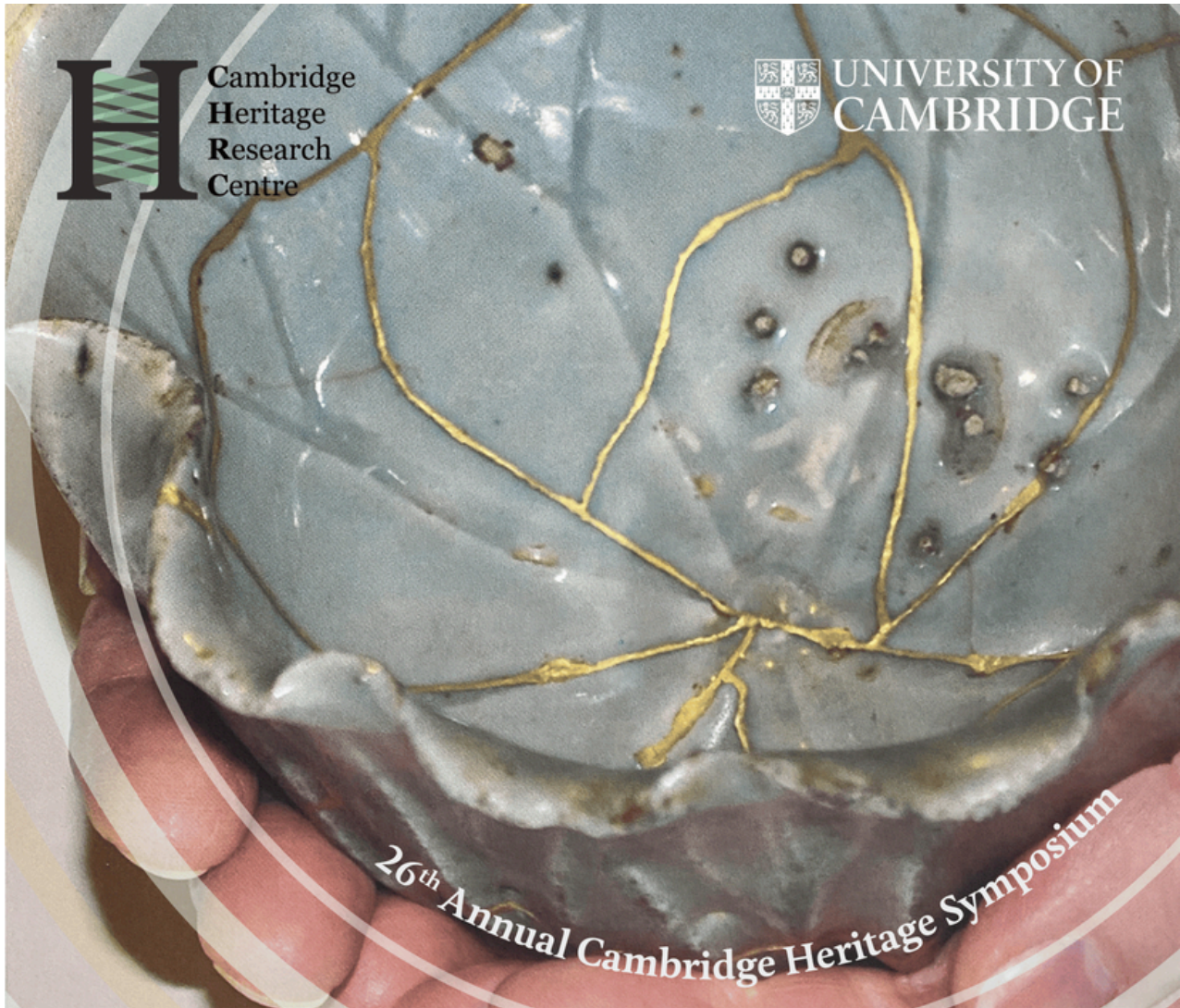
Their research drew on a wealth of archival evidence as well as field and map work. They uncovered medieval legal disputes between newly-created boroughs and some of the most powerful estates in the country. The separate interests of millers, navigators and farmers were incompatible in their shared use of the river, and the economic might and influence of the millers prevailed. Navigation on the Great Ouse above St Ives was not restored until the development of locks in the mid 17th century. The research findings have implications for our understanding of the evolution of parish boundaries, and for the re-appraisal of lowland river valley landscapes nationally.

The talk will take place in the Pye Building at Cambridge Museum of Technology. Entrance on the night is via the Museum's Cheddars Lane gate. There will be free light refreshments courtesy of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMECHE).

Tickets for the talk are available on the door for £5 a head, £3 for students. Members and volunteers at Cambridge Museum of Technology can attend for free. Advance tickets are also available on the Museum website.

[Learn more](#)





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

Friday 8th - Saturday 9th May 2026

McDonald Centre for Archaeological Research, Downing Site Cambridge

For more details visit our website or to book your **FREE** place please scan the QR code
www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/annual-symposia



 SAINSBURY INSTITUTE
For the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
セインズベリー日本藝術研究所



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Archaeological Research

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FOUNDATION

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ICOMOS TheoPhilos ISC Conference

***The Protection of Archaeological Heritage:
Theory Meets Practice***

27th Conference, 17th in Florence
Florence (Italy), 12–13 March 2026
Palazzo Coppini (Via del Giglio 10)

Conference Organizers:

In collaboration with:



[Register here](#)





Cambridge Antiquarian Society Spring Conference 2026

Standing Cambridge

Understanding Buildings in a Historic City

Seventeen speakers offer new views of historic buildings and sites in Cambridge in three sessions, on topics ranging from building materials and structural form to the historical perspectives of archaeologists and building historians noted for their interpretations of the buildings of Cambridge.

Organised by Jeremy Musson FSA

Chaired by Prof Simon Stoddart, president of CAS

Simon Stoddart *Cyril Fox and the relationship of archaeology and architectural history*

Origins and Landmarks

John Goodall; Craig Cessford; Christopher Evans; Elizabeth Deans; William Aslet

Materials and Meanings

Nigel Woodcock; James Campbell; Matt Cooper; Kieran Gleave; Frank Salmon

Historical Narratives/Narrators of Cambridge

Alexandrina Buchanan; Holly Smith; Oliver Caroe; Polly Hudson; Jeremy Musson
& Simon Bradley *Nikolaus Pevsner and Cambridge*

Saturday 14 March 2026, Cripps Auditorium, Magdalene College

Tickets available in advance only via Eventbrite

£20 non members, £15 members, £10 students.

Ten Fox Bursary-funded free student tickets are available,
contact registrar@camantsoc.org



[Register here](#)

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](#)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HERITAGE, CARE AND PEOPLE

in a Resilient World: Heritage
Networks as a Strategy for
Sustainability

MAY 27- 29 / 2026
MADRID



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – DEADLINES

Deadline for the submission of **open special session proposals**:
30 January 2026

Deadline for the submission of discussion **panels, papers, posters,**
audiovisual contributions and workshops proposals:
20 February 2026

*Exceptionally, proposals for **special closed group sessions** will be accepted
until **20 february 2026.**



ORGANIZES



PID2021-127248OB-I00



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University of Cambridge |
Holocaust Heritage
in the 21st century



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



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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

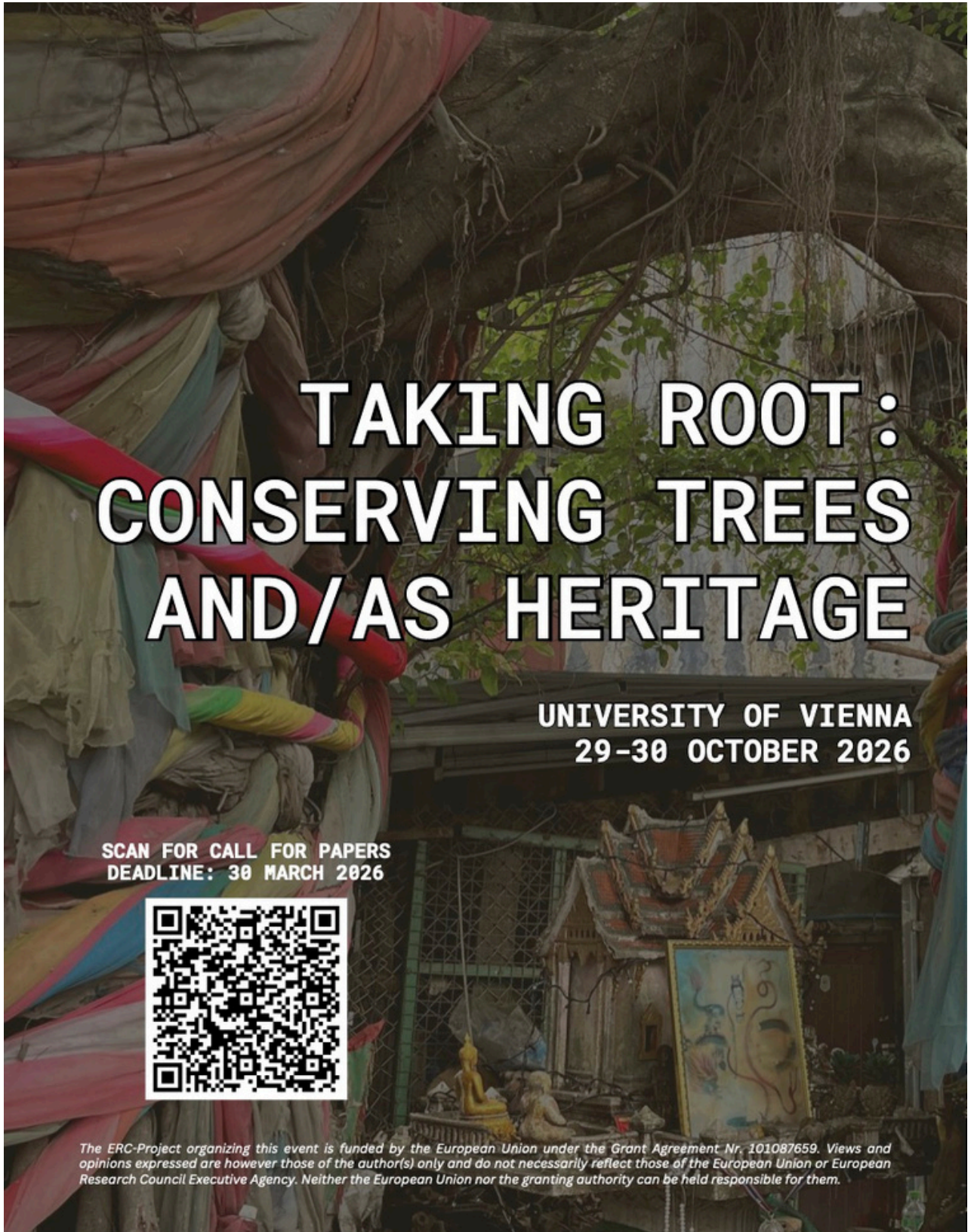


[Apply Here](#)





GLOCO



TAKING ROOT: CONSERVING TREES AND/AS HERITAGE

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
29-30 OCTOBER 2026

SCAN FOR CALL FOR PAPERS
DEADLINE: 30 MARCH 2026



The ERC-Project organizing this event is funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement Nr. 101087659. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

[Learn more](#)



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

University of Nottingham | PhD Studentship: 3D digital technologies and AI for developing community-led conservation strategies of heritage buildings at risk

February 25

Do you have an Architectural Degree? Are you curious about how digital technologies can enhance our critical approaches towards the conservation of built heritage, especially in the context of disasters? Do you have a PhD research proposal related to this topic, or can you develop one this month? If the answer is yes to these questions, then this PhD funding opportunity for the programme of Architecture Design (Social Science) might be for you.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated, and resourceful PhD student, to contribute to the generation of new knowledge on the topic of 3D digital technologies and AI for developing community-led conservation strategies of heritage buildings at risk. This exciting opportunity is based within the Architecture, Culture and Tectonics Research Group, Department of Architecture and Built Environment, at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Nottingham, which conducts cutting-edge research on the documentation and conservation of built heritage using advanced recording technologies in seismic areas of Chile and India, among other topics.

The latest advances in digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D laser scanning (LiDAR), photogrammetry, and virtual reality, among others, can significantly enhance our preparedness to mitigate and adapt to disasters. From previous research on their application to recurrent threats, such as earthquakes, mitigation strategies can be extrapolated to increase the conservation of our built heritage at risk. Learning from previous earthquakes to increase resilience in future earthquakes in seismic areas (Feilden 1987) is essential to ensure secure habitation, as they occur regularly. In the same way, we already know the possible impacts of climate change and lessons can be extracted to improve the reuse and conservation of heritage buildings, helping not only to mitigate climate change but also to adapt to its consequences.

Digital recording technologies can enhance disaster responses, such as earthquake recovery, through rapid built environment data collection, as demonstrated in previous research applied to seismic-prone areas of Chile and India, and by scaling up re-construction processes that can otherwise be slow in heritage contexts. However, at the moment, the potential of this data remains unexplored in light of the latest AI capabilities, which could lead to scaling up re-construction efforts to physically conserve more built heritage than ever before, if AI is used ethically and in line with the principles of transparency, equity and sustainability. An integrated 3D laser-scanning dataset with AI analysis can serve as a powerful platform for integrating participatory approaches with local communities in the conservation of their heritage.

[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

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