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The programme is positioned as a new, UK-wide competition designed to recognise and support the cultural contribution of towns.

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#### Asia's Archaeology and Heritage Group 2025 Review

by Geonyoung Kim

CHRC member Geonyoung Kim reflects on the achievements of the Cambridge Asia's Archaeology and Heritage Group over 2025.

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**Cover image:**

AAHG seminar from March 2025  
By Junting Lyu.

by Geonyoung Kim



*Image: AAHG seminar from March 2025 by Junting Lyu.*

Asia's Archaeology and Heritage Group invites academics and heritage practitioners to present current research and practice related to heritage in Asia. In 2025, the group held seven seminars and one graduate workshop across two terms. The events were organised by two PhD students in Heritage Studies from the Department of Archaeology, Geonyoung Kim and Junting Lyu, with funding from the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Over its two years of activity, and by running most events online, the group has successfully attracted audiences not only from other faculties in Cambridge, but also from Asia and the United States. As the group entered its second year, it experimented with more diverse forms of engagement. In February, the group hosted an in-person graduate workshop on ethnographic approaches, inviting three speakers from Heritage Studies and Asian Studies to share their research experiences. The workshop brought together postgraduate speakers and audiences from Cambridge, London and Sheffield, and received positive feedback for both its organisation and the intensive discussions enabled by its informal atmosphere.

In March, the group organised a one-day exhibition at the Haddon Library, with generous support from the library. The exhibition showcased drawings by Han Jong-sun, a survivor of the Brothers' Home and a human rights activist. The exhibition, alongside a hybrid seminar, attracted more than 50 attendees from Cambridge, Sheffield, London, Seoul and Gwangju. The audience included academics from heritage studies, area studies, law and related fields, as well as members of the Korean community in Cambridge. The talks and informal discussions provided a valuable platform for networking and for sharing research experiences across disciplines.

As one of the organisers, I had the opportunity to participate in every event and to benefit from both organising and contributing to the seminars and discussions.

Although the talks covered a wide range of topics and disciplines, several shared themes emerged concerning heritage practices in Asia. One key theme was the construction of national identity in the twentieth century. Dr Jeongha Lee (Ewha Womans University) presented her research on Chinese mythology and the formation of modern national identity in China, focusing on the rejuvenation of the concept of the “yellow race” in the early twentieth century. Dr Sanghoon Jang (National Folk Museum of Korea) examined how the National Museum of Korea has shaped South Korea’s national identity by distinguishing it from Japan and China, particularly through the visualisation of Korean material culture outside of Korea. A second theme concerned heritage practices that are gradually or abruptly disappearing. Dr Soung-U Kim (Università degli Studi di Napoli L’Orientale) introduced the concept of heritage language through the case of Jejuan, an endangered language in Jeju, South Korea. Dr Prista Ratanapruck (Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal) discussed the religious practices of the Manangi diasporic trading community and the reconstruction of material space after disaster.

The final overarching theme addressed power dynamics linked to colonial legacies, including British colonial rule in India and Japanese colonial rule in Korea. In October, Professor Naman P. Ahuja (Jawaharlal Nehru University) delivered a talk on the relics of the Buddha discovered in India during the colonial period and looted by the British coloniser W. C. Peppé. Their recent appearance as an auction lot at Sotheby’s Hong Kong raised complex dilemmas rooted in colonial legacies, entangled with geopolitics and research ethics. These included questions of repatriation of Buddha’s ashes as artefacts or human remains, the ethics of commodifying the relics, and whether scientific research on such relics that are deeply symbolic of India’s national identity is appropriate. The talk prompted critical reflection on the role of archaeologists and heritage practitioners in addressing such challenges.

Overall, the workshop and talks held over the past year raised a range of questions that remain relevant beyond the events themselves. Approaching heritage through the lens of Asia offers insights not only for scholars working on the region, but also for broader debates within heritage studies.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next session. The term card will be shared in the next bulletin issue and [Asia’s Archaeology and Heritage Group website](#).

## Bio

Geonyoung Kim is a PhD candidate in heritage studies at the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. She has been organising the Asia’s Archaeology and Heritage Group since early 2024. Her PhD research explores the role of museums in reconciliation through the case of museum representations of the Korean War in South Korea. Her other research interests include heritage diplomacy and visual methods.



## DCMS launches first 'UK Town of Culture' competition



The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has launched the first UK Town of Culture 2028 competition, opening an expression of interest process for towns across the UK. The programme is positioned as a new, UK-wide competition designed to recognise and support the cultural contribution of towns of three different sizes.

It builds on the UK City of Culture model and will, for the first time, select small, medium and large towns before naming an overall UK Town of Culture for the first time in 2028. The winning town will receive £3m to deliver a cultural programme of around six months during 2028. Two further finalists will each receive £250,000 to deliver elements of their proposed programmes, alongside £60,000 development grants for shortlisted places to support full applications.

DCMS said applicants are encouraged to include activities encompassing a “broad definition of culture and its creative industries” and “how it relates to the town’s history, story and community”. This includes but is not limited to heritage and the historic and natural environment, museums and galleries, libraries and archives, visual arts, theatre, and combined arts.

[Learn more](#)



## Holocaust memorial network collaboration and new paper on 'problems with authenticity' from Professor Gilly Carr



*Image: the ESHEM working group; Katharina von Schnurbein in centre in black jacket; Gilly Carr to her right in blue jacket; Alexandra Janus (director of ESHEM) 7th from left.*

### **European Sites of Holocaust Memory Working Group**

Earlier in 2025, Professor Gilly Carr was invited to join the Working Group of ESHEM (European Sites of Holocaust Memory), one of the European Commission's flagship projects under the European Union's Strategy on Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, a strategy coordinated by Katharina von Schnurbein. The aim of ESHEM, a project directed by Dr Alexandra Janus (President of the Zapomniane Foundation), is to create a network of Holocaust sites throughout Europe, with each site in the network receiving a plaque. In November, Professor Carr was invited to Brussels for a meeting of ESHEM, which included a discussion with Katharina von Schnurbein, and a fieldtrip to Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, a site of deportation of Jews during the Holocaust and today a memorial, museum and research centre on the Holocaust and Human rights. The Working Group is helping to advise and support the ESHEM project.

### **UNESCO Informal Global Academic Network on Genocide Education and Prevention**

In December, Gilly was invited to the memorial site of the Camp des Milles in Aix-en-Provence, France, for a meeting of the UNESCO Informal Global Academic Network on Genocide Education and Prevention, a network she has been invited to join. Camp des Milles was a site of internment and deportation during the Holocaust and is now the only such site in France still intact and open to the public. The group (pictured in the following page) presented their research to each other, discussed the future of the network and how it could advise UNESCO, and gave presentations to the students at Aix-Marseille University.





*Image: the UNESCO Informal Global Academic Network on Genocide Education and Prevention standing outside the Camp des Milles, with Gilly Carr on the left end.*

### **'Holocaust Heritage and its problems with authenticity'**

*Protection of Cultural Heritage 24: 100-124*

Gilly's new paper considers authenticity at sites of Holocaust heritage through the eyes of the IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites, exploring the importance of authenticity for providing proof of the past and avoiding Holocaust denial and distortion. Taking a variety of case studies from across Europe, it explores authenticity in both the physical reconstructions and restorations, and in the atmosphere at sites. It concludes by asking whether to argue about the acceptability of inauthenticity, and its limits, is ultimately a distraction. The paper states that the real problem today is Holocaust distortion, and elements at sites which contribute to that, and tell false narratives of past, are where heritage professionals at such sites should place their energies.

[Read 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](https://talks.cam)

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## 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."*

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Jack Womack

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Department of Archaeology

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

## 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](#)

January 27  
Online



**From critical misfortune to Museum: the case study of Claudia Formica (1903-1987) by Chiara Lanzi**

With her 'male' haircut, Claudia Formica appears proud and beautiful in the photographs and self-portraits of her youth. Born in a little Italian country town, we do not know how or why she decided to abandon her studies to become an elementary school teacher in order to go to the great city of Turin to train as a sculptor. Here her career developed ranging from little ceramics sculptures for private use to portraits and monumental sculpture for public spaces. She always lived alone and was totally dedicated to her work: even in the early 1980s – when she was an eighty-year-old – she continued to work hard in her little studio in Turin, packed full of plaster casts. Now these plaster casts and her studio's materials are housed in a dedicated museum in Nizza Monferrato, the town of her birth.

Chiara Lanzi was born in Turin to a family of musicians, she completed classical studies and graduated in Art History, then obtained a PhD from the University of Genoa. She first worked in Turin, at the Sabauda Gallery and the scientific museums of the University. She was director of the Giulio Monteverde plaster cast Gallery in Bistagno from 2011 to 2021. Now she lives in Liguria and collaborates with the MIC (Ministry of Cultural Heritage) in Genoa, while continuing her research on nineteenth-twentieth century sculpture. She is also completing the construction of the Edoardo Rubino (1871-1954) and Claudia Formica (1903-1987) plaster cast Galleries which, together with the Giulio Monteverde Gallery, will constitute a museum centre in lower Piedmont.

[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](#)

**H** Cambridge  
Heritage  
Research  
Centre



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

26th Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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

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

**Deadline for submissions: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



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

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

or contact the Symposium team at [chrcsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:chrcsymposium@gmail.com).



McDonald Institute for  
Archaeological Research



[Learn more](#)

## 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](#)



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

**Deadline: February 5**

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

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

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

**Dates:** 26 ~ 29 August 2026 in Athens Greece.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Apply Here](#)



University of Cambridge |  
Holocaust Heritage  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> century



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



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 21<sup>st</sup> century



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](#)



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 Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum |  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate



January 25

**Closing date:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Salary:** £37,694 - £46,049

**Contract type:** Fixed-term (4 years)

## The Fitzwilliam Museum: Opening up the past to transform our futures

As the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and the largest cultural venue in the region, The Fitzwilliam Museum acts as a crucial bridge between the University, the City and the rest of the world, and has an international reputation for extraordinary research, world class exhibitions, award-winning public programmes and significant collections spanning many cultures and centuries. The Hamilton Kerr Institute (HKI) is one of the world's leading centres for teaching and research in conservation and heritage science.

We invite applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position to work on the research project project MakingAI: AI-Driven Integration of 'Messy' Data in Technical Art History, , an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Hamilton Kerr Institute (HKI), Fitzwilliam Museum, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMPT), and the McDonald Institute for Archaeology. The project is funded by [Schmidt Sciences](#).

Technical Art History unites humanities scholarship with Heritage Science from molecular structures to documentary evidence capturing heterogeneous, incomplete, and uncertain multimodal datasets (scientific imaging, spectroscopy, archival sources, etc.) that diverge in both format and interpretive logic. MakingAI confronts the challenge of synthesizing these hybrid 'messy' data, by integrating artificial intelligence, particularly multimodal learning and machine reasoning, with Technical Art History methodology. Drawing on Cambridge University's collections, advanced scientific equipment infrastructure, and the research team's interdisciplinary expertise, MakingAI explores how AI, guided by human knowledge, can transform such fragmented hybrid data into coherent narratives of artistic and artisanal production across culture, places and time.

The successful applicant will work on scientific data capture and processing of legacy data for cultural heritage objects at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the McDonald Institute for Archaeology. Applicants should have, or be close to completing, a PhD in Heritage Science, Technical Art History, or a closely related discipline..

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

National Trust, Benthall Hall |  
Collections Assistant



National Trust

January 25

**Closing date:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Wages:** £12.75 per hour

**Contract type:** Fixed-term, part-time.



## About the role

Working in a 16th century home, you will be setting the house up in the mornings, getting it ready for visitors to explore in the afternoons. With a high level of attention to detail, you will be dusting and vacuuming the showrooms, removing cobwebs and stones and keeping an eye on the condition of our historic collection, ensuring they are looked after and keeping on top of any pest activity. You will be working 268 hours during the contracted period.

The seat of the Benthall family for over 1000 years, Benthall Hall is a relatively modest family home based in the heart of Shropshire. Benthall is looked after by a small team of staff and volunteers and welcomes 20,000 visitors a year to come and explore the varied lives of its previous occupants. As a small team, we all chip in to help make the visitor experience as interesting as possible and help keep the presentation standards as high as would be expected in a home such as Benthall.

As a Collections Assistant at Benthall Hall, you'll collaborate with a dedicated small team of volunteers reporting to the Site Manager. Your role involves preparing the 16th century house for public viewing on its open days, maintaining our high presentation standards, mirroring the high standards that would have been expected by the Benthall family over the centuries. You will also have the opportunity to work up close and personal with the delicate collection, monitoring their condition and tracking the environmental conditions of the rooms to ensure the longevity of the collection. Your work schedule will be two hours each morning Saturday through to Monday during term time and Saturday through to Wednesday during local school holidays, plus Good Friday.

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

Oxford Brookes University |  
AHRC PhD Studentship



January 30

**Closing date:** 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Interview date:** March 2026

**Funding amount:** £20,780 p.a. + fees

## Description

Oxford Brookes University is delighted to offer three fully funded doctoral research scholarships under the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Landscape Award scheme. We welcome applications from motivated candidates in the Arts and Humanities or related disciplines who wish to undertake innovative and socially engaged research aligned with the University's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

We particularly encourage applications from individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the Arts and Humanities and in doctoral research, and from candidates whose research proposals **address EDI-related themes** within the arts and humanities.

Scholarship holders will join the vibrant research community of the University, engaging with interdisciplinary projects that span practice-based work, empirical research, textual and theoretical analysis, industrial studies, and historical or contemporary perspectives.

We welcome proposals on any topic related to the University's research strengths and particularly encourage projects that align with our interdisciplinary and challenge-led priorities.

## Areas of supervision:

- Creative and Cultural Industries, Media, and Arts Practice (EDI in Practice)
- Identity, Representation, and Social Justice (EDI in Theory and Experience)
- Humanities, Philosophy, and Literature (EDI in Knowledge and Method)

[Learn more](#)





# Opportunities

University of Leicester |  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate



January 31

**Salary:** £39,906 p.a.

**Contract type:** Fixed-term (4 years)

## About the role

An opportunity is available for a 4-year full-time (100% FTE) Post-Doctoral Research and Innovation Associate to join a large and ambitious AHRC-funded research project exploring and addressing the museum attendance and benefit gap.

Despite significant investment in museums, people who participate in and benefit from state-sponsored cultural forms including museums, continue to be more highly educated and to experience higher levels of economic advantage. Building on earlier AHRC-funded research - the Addressing the Museum Attendance and Benefit Gap project, in partnership with Birmingham Museums Trust, will draw across museum studies, sociological analysis and implementation science to generate evidence of what works to broaden museum audiences. The research will undertake wide ranging data and literature analysis, build a usable Research and Implementation Framework for museums and undertake significant testing of the framework with key stakeholders in the context of Birmingham Museums. Supported by a wide range of sector partners and generating unprecedented levels of interdisciplinary and university-practitioner collaboration, the project will:

- Bridge DCMS, regional, and local data to develop a deeper understanding of educational disadvantage in relation to cultural participation;
- Develop rigorous philosophical analysis to clarify key underpinning concepts;
- Distil and rank existing 'what works' evidence as a starting point for action research;
- Integrate lessons from Implementation Science;
- Synthesise the above in a Democratising Museums and Heritage Research and Implementation Framework including actionable methodologies, 'what works' specifications, and implementation and evaluation strategies/tools.
- Test and refine this in the context of Birmingham Museums Trust;
- Identify processes, facilitators and barriers to change;
- Work with leading MHIs, policy and funding bodies to embed findings across the sector.

Based in Leicester, the Research and Innovation Associate will have the opportunity to work as part of core research team in the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries and will be responsible for: undertaking systematic literature reviews, organising meetings and workshops, collation of materials, taking full part in on-site research and testing at Birmingham Museums, liaising with partner organisations, supporting data analysis, writing project reports and contributing fully to research outputs.

[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

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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

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