



In this Issue

BULLETIN

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre
23 November 2021

Cover Story | 1

News | 2

Events | 4

Calls for Papers | 7

Opportunities | 8

About Us | 9

NEWS

Peking University—Cambridge Heritage Research Centre River Basin Cultural Heritage Seminar

On 9 November members of the CHRC joined colleagues online from Peking University for the River Basin Cultural Heritage Seminar. Organised by Prof. Fang Wang and his team from Peking University, assisted by Shiting Lin, CHRC graduate member at the University of Cambridge, the event brought together representatives from the UK and China and was supported by the NSFC-DFG Sino-German Cooperation Group on Urbanization and Locality (Peking University) and UNESCO World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Beijing). Presentations and discussions saw a productive exchange of ideas and comparative insights on the specific opportunities and challenges or cultural heritage in river basin landscapes.

Read more on page 2

COVER STORY

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members, colleagues, students and alumni

Between October and November, in countries across the globe, we see festivals and celebrations which recognise and give thanks for the harvest and the preceding year. While some are religious, others are secular occasions, though almost all display a strong association with the traditional food crops that would sustain communities through the coming winter.

These foods and the intangible heritages associated with harvest celebrations are at once important familial and national heritages. However, with increasingly globalised food markets, climate change impacting crop distributions and agricultural cycles, and climate induced food insecurity will such celebrations retain their existing meaning for future generations or will they develop new significances and associations?

Photograph: M. L. S. Sørensen

Peking University - CHRC River Basin Cultural Heritage Seminar

On 9 November 2021, the River Basin Cultural Heritage Seminar was held online. This seminar, which was sponsored by the College of Architecture and Landscape and the School of Archaeology and Museology (Peking University, China) as well as the Department of Archaeology (University of Cambridge, UK), aimed to establish international academic communication to support cultural heritage and archaeological work in the UK and China. Prof. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen and Dr Liliana Janik participated as keynote speakers, while Dr Dacia Viejo Rose served as a commentator. Shiting Lin, a first-year PhD student, helped to organise the seminar.

is viewed from a top-down perspective that may dispute the sanctity of heritage, while the concept of ‘rationally’ tends to make people judge subjectively in a way that can lead to bias. ‘Adaptive use based on law’, in contrast, can mean to use heritage in contemporary life to support the development of human society as well as to use heritage objectively. As for ‘sharing’, it emphasises that heritage belongs to all human beings, instead of exclusively belonging to someone in traditional society.

Prof. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen from the University of Cambridge gave a keynote speech entitled ‘The River and the Site’. In it, she introduced her research based on the Bronze Age tell of Százhalombatta, Hungary. By testing four assumptions – ‘the relationship to the river as definitional for the site’, ‘rivers are communication and trade arteries’, ‘river positions as a matter of defence and control’, ‘rivers as an economic resource’ – she found that while the Danube did not play these roles for the tell, it may play roles in the transportation of bulky materials and the provision of food or pebbles for people. She proceeded to highlight that while rivers cannot always play the significant roles they are popularly assumed to have, they can be important for some more subtle purposes, which should make researchers think more carefully when they research rivers.



Image: Group photo of participators (Courtesy of Prof. Fang Wang)

The seminar was supported by several institutions and various people. It was hosted by Prof. Fang Wang’s team from Peking University and organised by the NSFC-DFG Sino-German Cooperation Group on Urbanization and Locality (Peking University) and UNESCO World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Beijing). Prof. Ruiwen Shen, Prof. Nan Shi, Prof. Bin Lv, Prof. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen, and Dr Yun Li gave opening addresses. Prof. Changchun Feng and Prof. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen cooperated to chair the seminar.

Six keynote speeches were presented during the seminar. Prof. Jianxin Wang from the Northwest University in China presented a speech entitled ‘The Practice and Concept of Cultural Heritage Protection & The Protection of Culture Heritage in the Yellow River Basin’. In his speech, he introduced two important concepts for heritage conservation: adaptive use based on law and sharing. He held that the concept of ‘exploiting rationally’ that is commonly used in China should be replaced with ‘adaptive use based on law’ since ‘exploitation’ in the Chinese context

The following speech, given by Prof. Wei Huo from the Sichuan University in China, concerned ‘Sanxingdui Archaeology and historical and cultural heritage’. Prof. Wei Huo provided many details about and pictures of the new archaeological excavation of Sanxingdui, giving the audience a closer look at the mysterious heritage. He noted the signs of power and social estate in Sanxingdui Bronze Age culture were gold truncheons, gold face masks, bronze head sculptures and huge bronze figures. He held that as they were similar to the cultural elements of the ancient Eurasian civilisation, the matter of whether or not there are links between them should be given attention. As for the future planning and development of Sanxingdui, he indicated that deeper archaeological research should be conducted, the establishment of the new Sanxingdui Museum and the National Sanxingdui Archaeological Park should be accelerated and the interpretation of Sanxingdui to the public should be improved.

Dr Liliana Janik from the University of Cambridge presented a speech entitled ‘River landscapes: metastable ecosystems and ontological security in the past and the

Peking University - CHRC River Basin Cultural Heritage Seminar

present'. Taking the concepts of 'metastable ecosystems' related to ecology and 'ontological security' linked to politics and social science, she considered the relationship between them in interpretations of Shinano River heritage in Japan. In her research, she found that the areas along the river experienced many disasters in the history. But at the same time, there are a lot of heritage created and preserved by people, such as the statue 'Man overcoming snow'. The heritage related to it was and is used to build Japanese national identity from archaeological and heritage data. Particularly, the heritage is used as material cultures in museums and arts.



Image: The excavation of Sanxingdui (Courtesy of Prof. Wei Huo)

The last speech was given by Prof. Binfu Zhao from Jilin University, China, entitled 'Bronze Culture in Liao River Basin'. Liao River, located in northern China, is one of China's five mother rivers. In his study, Prof. Binfu Zhao determined that the archaeological culture in Liao River Basin in the Bronze Age could be divided into four stages

from the temporal perspective and four regions from the spatial perspective. By analysing the temporal and spatial relations of pottery, he found that the Bronze Age culture in Liao River Basin could be divided into five cultural systems, symbolising five of the ethnic groups there.

Showing appreciation to the speakers, Dr Dacia Viejo Rose from the University of Cambridge emphasised that environmental issues are significant for heritage preservation considering the ways elements in heritage sites interact with each other. She held that it is necessary to preserve heritage as a system considering ecological and environmental elements. Prof. Zhongshu Zhao from the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, as a commentator, expressed gratitude and gave honest comments to speakers. Particularly, he agreed with Dr Liliana Janik's opinion that heritage being used as material cultures, such as souvenirs, has important positive effects and can lead to children and the public learning more about heritage even if most souvenirs are eventually discarded. He held that people should pay more attention to use heritage to educate the public.

The seminar, which was presented in English and Chinese simultaneously, was livestreamed and was watched by around 10,000 people. The event has been since reported by Chinese Social Sciences Today, since the seminar coincided with the Chinese government's current attention on support for Chinese archaeology and heritage. Furthermore, the seminar provided a great opportunity for scholars from China and the UK to learn more about each other and exchange ideas about cultural heritage in relation to river basin environments.

Shiting Lin, CHRC graduate member, PhD in Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

EVENTS



Americas Archaeology Group
and
Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

Indigenous Resistance: Making Strategies Visible

In deciphering the materialities of the early colonial and republican societies in the former Spanish colonies, indigenous resistance has always received central attention. In this talk, I want to present the contributions of various works carried out in Colombia to date. From a multidisciplinary approach that includes archaeological excavations, archival research, and ethnographic work, this talk will examine several of the main components that have characterized the dynamics of indigenous resistance in Colombia and how we can think of them as alternative cultural responses. These works have thought of resistance as a creative process through which social strategies, both in the colonial and republican periods but even in the contemporary world, are expressed as a series of encounters of power, transformation, and experimentation.

Dr Jimena Lobo Guerrero Arenas

*Senior Curator in Archaeology
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge*

Wednesday 24 November, 5-6pm

To receive a link to this joint event hosted by the Americas Archaeology Group and Cambridge Heritage Research Centre please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4ddr5udp>

EVENTS

HERITAGE + COLONIALISM DISCUSSION GROUP

Schedule of Events 2021/22

All sessions will be held at 2pm
via Zoom unless stated otherwise

19 Oct | Ammar Azzouz

Our pain, their heritage project

2 Nov | Sarah Van Beurden

*Les Contentieux: past and present
Belgian-Congolese debates about
restitution*

16 Nov | Isabel Gilbert

*Culture, Heritage and White Safe Spaces
in the Wake of Colston's Toppling*

**30 Nov | Beatrice Falucci and
Abigail Allan**

*Ethiopian Objects in Museum
Collections: Case Studies from Italy &
Bath*

25 Jan | Katherine Wall

*Facilitating dialogue about 'difficult
histories': the country house, colonialism
and the move towards reparative futures*

8 Feb | Daniel Rosenblum

*Between heritage imaginaries and
tourism landscapes: narratives of
imperial conquest and encounter
through Seville, Spain's heritage sites*

**22 Feb | Florence I Okoye and
Eleanor S Armstrong**

*Ethics of care to counter colonial
naming practices in science museums*

**8 Mar | George Kenny and Alicia
Colson**

*Ah ni shi nah bay esh shi kay win: A
concept? A belief system?*

**15 Mar | Kirsten Huffer, Aimee
Flack and Florencia Nannetti**

*ReStorying OUR Museum: Exploring
the Museum of Cambridge's Colonial
Legacy*

22 Mar | Njabulo Chipangura

*Decolonial practices and their
application in African museums:
Community museums as an alternative*

29 Mar | Flaminia Bartolini

*Colonial heritage in Rome:
Remembering and forgetting Italy's
colonial past*

12 Apr | Remco Vermeulen

*The politics of heritage conservation in
postcolonial Jakarta*

20 Apr* | Andrew Nunes

*Decolonising Statues: Unmaking a
Celebratory Discourse of Portuguese
Imperialism and Colonialism in the
Urban Public Space*

**27 Apr* | Indigenous Studies
Discussion Group Panel (in person)**

*Decolonising Rights to the Natural
Heritage and the Environment*



**4 May* | Indigenous Studies
Discussion Group Online Panel**

*Wellbeing and the Environment:
Traditional Knowledge and the
Conservation of Nature Panel*



10 May | Natchee Barnd

*Indigenous Installations: Art and
Decolonisation in Western Oregon*

To join our mailing list and receive a link to the sessions, email Mariana:
mp850@cam.ac.uk

EVENTS

Garrod Research Seminars

Entangled histories: Archaeology, modern politics, and heritage in Vietnam

Nam Kim, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thursday, 25 November, 2021 - 16:00

Archaeological interpretations of the past can have enormous implications for present-day communities, whether at local or national levels. Practices related to fieldwork, research dissemination, and heritage management can be subject to subtle and intense forms of contestation and negotiation. This is especially the case for societies experiencing post-war or post-colonial eras of societal change. Given the range of potential stakeholders and varied agendas, there can be significant challenges for both the completion of research and the communication of findings to scholarly and public audiences. Owing to its complex nature, the archaeological enterprise can be marked by degrees of uncertainty in how research is conducted and findings promulgated. Who participates? Whose views are represented or deemed authoritative or

even valid? Who can lay claims on the past, replete with its sites and materials? How is archaeology used for formations of past and modern cultural identity?

For much of Asia, social developments in post-war contexts have had a major impact on the nature of archaeological practices. Using Vietnam as a case study, this lecture outlines the significance of the material record for historiography, exploring how artifacts and sites have been perceived and appropriated for constructions and reconstructions of early Vietnam. Considered are the linkages between the past and nationalistic objectives, as espoused by various entities across the centuries. With a lengthy cultural history stretching millennia into the past, the Vietnamese case is instructive in that such projects related to statehood and national imagination have not been restricted to modern eras.

This lecture will be on Zoom.

Please register via the following link:

https://cam-ac-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpeihrTTrE9NG8MZi4pdc3WeEq5_IBrt

UCL ISH Virtual Guest Lecture

The spatial morphology of community heritage in local centres - a space syntax perspective

Thursday 25 November 2021, 5:30pm

An ISH Guest Lecture with Dr Sam Griffiths, Associate Professor in Spatial Cultures in the Space Syntax Laboratory at The Bartlett School of Architecture.

About this lecture

The desire to acknowledge 'ordinary' and 'everyday' urban heritages begs complex questions of what heritage is, where we find it and to whom it belongs. The now familiar contrast of 'tangible' and 'intangible' heritages usefully distinguishes between the materiality of heritage objects that might be assigned an economic value, perhaps as tourist attractions, and the broad socio-cultural significance to their varied communities of historic urban landscapes whose economic value is less easily defined.

In this talk I draw on the growing body of urban heritage research deploying space syntax concepts and methods to reflect on these questions. I begin by focusing on a recently-published case study of the London suburb of Chipping Barnet to propose how the enduring spatial-morphological

definition of Barnet as a local centre helps explain how something less tangible — namely its heritage as a suburban community — has been sustained over time.^[1]

Putting this research in a broader context raises productive questions about the role of spatial morphology as a source of what I refer to as 'contingent heritage' in response to profound technologically enabled socio-economic determinants that tend to de-centre local identities. This is not to assert an essentialist narrative of modernity as the 'loss of the local', Barnet's community heritage has always been constructed through affiliations across a range of geographic scales, not least in relation to London. Rather it highlights the complex subjectivities of heritage and the challenges of local belonging in the twenty-first century.

^[1] Vaughan L and Griffiths S (2021) The Spatial Morphology of Community in Chipping Barnet c.1800-2015: An Historical Dialogue of Tangible and Intangible Heritages. *Heritage* 4(3): 1119-1140. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage4030062>.

To Register Visit:

[https://ucl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oKEDvxxGRim3yAO_iuyxwA?](https://ucl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oKEDvxxGRim3yAO_iuyxwA?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ish+guest+lectures)

[utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ish+guest+lectures](https://ucl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oKEDvxxGRim3yAO_iuyxwA?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=ish+guest+lectures)

CALL FOR PAPERS

ACHS2022 Conference, Santiago Chile

The call for papers for the ACHS2022 Conference at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) in Santiago, Chile, is now open.

The **Center for Intercultural and Indigenous Studies (CIIR)** is organizing the 6th ACHS Conference from December 4-7, 2022.

Proposals are due by December 3, 2021

The organizers are limiting the number of presenters to 350.

As of now, the ACHS 2022 Conference- Santiago de Chile will be held **in person**. Please keep this in mind when you submit your abstract. If changes must occur due to the pandemic, they will be notified through this channel in March – April 2022.

Formalities and Procedures

- The abstract should be 300 words maximum including the title.
- The abstract can be in Spanish, Portuguese, or English. If you speak an indigenous language, you can send the abstract in your language and attach a version in Spanish, Portuguese, or English. The organization will try to ensure that simultaneous interpreters are available at some tables. In the event this is not possible, participants are invited to translate for themselves.
- The reviewers will not have access to the information sheet; they will only receive the abstracts to ensure a double-blind system. Only the organizers will be able to access the information sheet.
- Please attach each Word document individually. For the abstract(s), the name of the document should be named “abstract” and presentation modality (eg. abstract_individual presentation or abstracts_group presentation) and the information sheet should be named “information sheet.”
- Once the abstract and information sheet have been uploaded to the platform, you will not be able to make changes to the documents.
- Remember to be sure to meet all the requirements, including the limited number of participation roles. If you do not, your abstract will not be accepted to the review process.

Role Limit

Each person is allowed to send one abstract, regardless of the presentation modality and topic chosen. If you send more than one abstract, neither of them will be accepted. The only exception is for people who wish to participate as coordinators of a group session or roundtable, who may submit an extra abstract for the event they will coordinate. Those who coordinate a table may not present at it.

Presentation Modalities

We will receive abstracts for conference participation based on one of four presentation modalities: individual presentation, group presentation, roundtable and audiovisual.

Topics

This is the first time the ACHS Conference will be held in Latin America, making it both a challenge and an opportunity to enthusiastically present and discuss heritage issues specific to our country and continent within a broader dialogue that examines these issues from an international perspective.

- Heritage, Power and Contestation
- Institutionalization and Intercultural Heritage Policies
- Childhood: an example of intergenerational interculturality
- Education, Interculturality and Heritage
- Indigenous Peoples and Tourism
- Repatriation aAfro-descendant and nd Restitution of Ancestors and Cultural Objects
- Contemporary Art, Heritage and Interculturality
- Heritage, Tangible Culture and Museums: intercultural dialogues about the Past, Present and Future
- Afro-descendants and the African Diaspora, Colonial and Modern (Post Colonial)
- Tensions in Intangible Indigenous Cultural Heritage Practices and Knowledge
- Intercultural Landscapes and Itineraries
- Indigenous Memory and Worldview in the 21st Century
- Mobilities, Migration and Territorial Coexistence: practices, disputes and tensions regarding heritage and interculturality

For more information visit:

<https://www.achs2022santiago.com/en/participate/call-for-presentations/>

OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Trainee (Graduate)

Heritage Trainee (Graduate)

Heritage Trust Network
Location: UK, Home based
Salary: £19,000 p/a pro rata

Closing date: 13 December 2021

Specific responsibilities

- Research and develop content for the Network website, events, Newsletters, online community and social media, including online research, telephone and on-site interviews, photography and filming.
- Support staff members in the planning, promotion, organisation and delivery of online and in-person events
- Support the processing of casework queries from members, forwarding queries to relevant experts in the network and progress-chasing their resolution
- Review and update existing Toolkit content and research and develop new content
- Support member organisations to complete their entries in our Member Directory, take advantage of our crowdfunding platform and complete impact assessments. This may involve telephone interviews with members to gather information and upload it to our systems.
- Review the Network Hub online community and post comments to stimulate further conversations
- Undertake research and data entry to develop our lists of potential members and partners

General responsibilities:

- Keep a work/training diary and document skills and learning acquired during the placement
- Attend HTN board meetings, Unlocking the Power of Communities Steering Group meetings and other meetings that may arise. Prepare papers and take notes as required.
- Support the development of Network branches and clusters across the UK
- Help to champion the repair and conservation of historic buildings and their environments across the UK
- Support staff to ensure that our events, services and communications are accessible and maintained to a high standard
- Undertake site visits accompanied by the Programme Manager or other core staff members as opportunities arise
- Develop decision-making and troubleshooting skills
- Build internal and external relationships

The ideal candidate will have recently graduated and will have an interest in heritage and the regeneration of communities through the use of historic buildings, structures and spaces.

This post is designed to help the successful applicant with early-career access to the heritage sector. Training will be provided.

To Apply Visit:

<https://www.heritagetrustnetwork.org.uk/heritage-trust-network-seeks-to-recruit-a-graduate-trainee/>

CONTACT US



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-HRG events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

SUBSCRIBE

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

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