



In this Issue

8TH OCT 2024

In the News

Launch of the Museum Data Service (MDS)

In September 2024, the Museum Data Service (MDS) was launched. MDS is a transformative new service that aims to connect and share all the object records across all UK museums. It is a joint initiative by Art UK, Collections Trust and the University of Leicester, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

*Read more on **Page 1***

Cover Story

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre welcomes new cohort of MPhil Students

As we begin the 2024/25 academic year, the CHRC would like to extend a warm welcome to the latest cohort of MPhil Heritage Studies students. We look forward to their valuable contributions to the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre, both within this bulletin and in the CHRC Research Group Seminars, which will be taking place during term time throughout the year.

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Cover photo: King's College Chapel from across the River Cam. Image source: Kieran Gleave



Launch of the Museum Data Service (MDS)

In September 2024 the MDS launched, setting the stage for an unprecedented consolidation of the UK's museum records. This ambitious initiative, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) will provide a platform to bring together over 100 million object records from 1,750 accredited museums and other collections across the UK, unlocking an invaluable resource for researchers, educators, curators, and content developers.

MDS will hold four 'levels' of collection-related data:

Level 1 (Institutions): The names of museums (and other institutions sharing data with MDS), linked to information held elsewhere about their location, opening times, etc.

Level 2 (Collections): Descriptive summaries of the scope and highlights of collections (and, where appropriate, sub-collections).

Level 3 (Object records): Item-level catalogue records drawn from museums' own collections databases.

Level 4 (New and enhanced data): New content (eg exhibition text) and enhancements (eg AI-generated keywords) linked to level 3 object records.

On the 9th of October 2024, an online training session **Getting ready for MDS** will be hosted between 10:00am - 11am (GMT). This session is for those who want to explore the data-sharing options offered by MDS and see how the process works.

[Learn more about the Museum Data Service](#)

Military Surplus: Toxicity, Industry and War 2024 - 2025

17th October - 28th November 2024

Contemporary military conflict tends to be defined by the 'event' of war — the outbreak, the clash, the rupture, the declaration. It is cataclysmic, excessively visual, and volatile. The physical world is reduced to the combat zone, composed of seemingly ahistorical objects, materials, and actors. Beyond the immediate theatre of war, however, there are intricate (and often hidden) supply-chains, industries, and arrangements sustaining and bolstering military might. The 'Military Surplus' research network will examine these 'peripheral' zones, as well as the by-products of war which seem to lie beyond traditional understandings of the military-industrial-complex. By honing in on communities and environments around the world directly and indirectly impacted by the manufacture of weapons and materiel, the hosting of military installations, and the flow of toxic materials and substances that these industries entail, participants will explore interdisciplinary methods and approaches capable of tracking the military's extension into hidden and unexpected spheres of life.

The network will connect sites where toxic materials are extracted, the industrial centres producing weapons and equipment, and the theatres of war where these are deployed. From the production of asbestos for military submarines, Franco's deployment of Civil War prisoners in mercury mining, the processing of kelp-derived alginates in camouflage material, to the ongoing use of PFAS 'forever chemicals' on military bases across the United Kingdom, researchers involved in the network will make visible the material, political, and cultural connections between war, military manufacturing, and extractive industry. A series of interdisciplinary research talks, discussions, and workshops will highlight the materials, residues, and molecules of conflict — forging connections between 'hot wars' and the 'slow' (structural) violence of toxic materials and working conditions, and their physical and environmental harms. Through incorporating different scales of impact, the network will rework notions of justice, repair, and representation, thereby extending analysis to the nonhuman and more-than-human.

We invite activists, artists, community stakeholders, and scholars from different disciplinary paths such as Anthropology, History and Philosophy of Science, Politics, Sociology of Health and Science, History, Geography, Heritage/Archaeology, as well as the natural and physical sciences, to join the conversation. We are particularly interested in making space for undergraduates, MPhil students, Early Career Researchers, and non-academics within the network.

[Learn More](#)



Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Thursdays

17:00 - 19:00

Online - RSVP via Eventbrite

Twitter @surpluswar

MILITARY SURPLUS

Toxicity, Industry and War

Michaelmas Term 2024

17 Oct

MILITARISED NATURES, RESISTANT ECOLOGIES

Munira Khayyat (NYU Abu Dhabi / NYU New York)
Paul Kohlbry (Cornell University)

31 Oct

ARCHIPELAGOS AGAINST EMPIRE

Tiara Na'puti (University of California Irvine)
Cristina Puntaru (University of Edinburgh)

14 Nov

ATOMIC ANXIETIES & NUCLEAR IMAGINARIES

Jessica Douthwaite (University of Stirling)
Min-Kyoo Kim (University of Cambridge)

28 Nov

(INFRA)STRUCTURING VIOLENCE & WAR

Esther Breithoff (Birkbeck)
Mark Griffiths (Newcastle University)

Seminars are free to join and open to all
For more information please scan the QR code or
visit our page on CRASSH's website



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crassh.cam.ac.uk



CRASSH

2024 Von Hügel Lecture by Phillip Ihenacho, the Executive Director of the Museum of West African Art

22nd October 2024

Queen's Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Tuesday 22 October 2024, 5pm-6pm, and will be followed by a reception at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Free to attend, booking required. Please RSVP to friends@maa.cam.ac.uk.

In the museum world, discussions about the restitution of objects taken from Africa often dwell on issues to do with the adequacy of museum infrastructure. Where will these restituted objects be housed and how will they be made available for study and display? This talk explores the notion of restitution and the relevance of museums from an African perspective by following the journey of a new museum in Nigeria – the Museum of West African Art.

Phillip Ihenacho devotes the majority of his time to philanthropy and social enterprises in arts and culture and nature conservation in Africa. He is the Executive Director of the Museum of West African Art and was instrumental in setting up the independent foundation that is building and will run the museum. He has a keen interest in ancient African civilisations, art and antiquities and is also interested in nature and environmental issues; he co-founded Africa Nature Investors an African-led ecosystem conservation organisation active in two national parks in Nigeria.

Phillip was born in Lagos and grew up in Jos, Nigeria. Prior to philanthropic endeavours, Phillip devoted most of his career to Africa-focused finance. He is a founder and partner of Amaya Capital, an active investor in energy infrastructure in Africa, and previously worked for the international consulting firm of McKinsey & Co. in New York, London, Stockholm and Johannesburg. He has a B.A. (Honours, 1987) from Yale University and a J.D. (Honours, 1990) from Harvard Law School.

Steam Weekend: Cambridge Museum of Technology

2nd - 3rd November 2024

A great day out for all the family. Have all your senses stimulated by our magnificent steam engines running in public again following an extensive restoration program. This has been made possible by many thousands of volunteer hours and over £100,000 funding from local donations, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England and Architectural Heritage Fund.

The North Hathorn Davey engine will run throughout the day, while a variety of smaller engines across our site will also be running. Be sure to check the timetable when you arrive to ensure you don't miss anything!

[Event information
and booking](#)



Launch of Legacies of Windrush in Cambridgeshire

19th October 2024

Museum of Cambridge, 2-3 Castle Street, Cambridge, CB5 8RL (2pm - 5pm)

The Museum of Cambridge warmly invites you to a special event celebrating the launch of the *Legacies of Windrush in Cambridgeshire* project.

We are honoured to welcome our partner in this project, Dr Carol Brown-Leonardi who will give a talk highlighting the significance of the Windrush generation's contributions and legacy. You will also hear more about the project from the Museum of Cambridge, and how you or your loved ones can get involved. This event will mark the beginning of an exciting journey to collect and share the stories of the Windrush Elders, preserving them for future generations through an exhibition and events. We're excited to work with young people to bring these stories to life and truly celebrate the lives of the Windrush Generation in Cambridgeshire.

Enjoy a wonderful afternoon filled with music and delicious food, as well as an opportunity to visit the Museum and connect with fellow members of the Windrush community.

Please RSVP by emailing alex.smaridge@museumofcambridge.org.uk for catering purposes. All are welcome!

Icon Annual Lecture 2024: Blue plaques, anniversaries, and the art of reporting heritage

4th December 2024

6pm - 7:30pm (GMT)

Award winning journalist and broadcaster Samira Ahmed explores what reporting on heritage reveals about modern Britain and its future.

Presenter of BBC 1's Newswatch, BBC R4's Front Row and regular writer for the Guardian and The Independent newspapers, Samira has covered a wide range of heritage conservation stories during her career, both in the UK and internationally. These include the 200th birthday of the National Gallery, the launch of the National Blue Plaques Scheme and the proposed A303 tunnel beneath the Stonehenge UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In Icon's 6th Annual Lecture, Samira will explore these stories and more, sharing insights into the level of public engagement and the surprisingly varied responses to them.

[Event information
and booking](#)



Call for Papers: Water Management in World Heritage Sites Amid Climate Change

1st December 2024

The special issue seeks to provide a comprehensive thematic and methodological foundation for policy makers by examining case studies and developing unified policy recommendations. Contributions to this publication could also serve as a valuable addition to the UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas and showcase best practices in water management.

Key Areas of Focus:

- The historical and sustainable aspects of water management in World Heritage sites.
- Development of comprehensive water management plans that address current and future climate risks.
- Case studies on water management adaptation strategies.
- Educational measures to improve awareness and knowledge of water management for heritage preservation.

Guiding Questions:

- *What lessons can we learn from historical sites in sustainable water management?*
- *How can we develop a water management plan for a World Heritage site that balances preservation with modern climate challenges?*
- *What are the socio-legal and economic issues related to water management at these sites?*

Submission Deadline: 1 December 2024

Publication: 30 May 2025

[Submission information](#)

TEHiC Final Conference on Heritage Interpretation

25th November 2024

University of Gothenburg Campus and Digital Sessions.

Building on the Erasmus+ TEHiC (Towards a European Heritage Interpretation Curriculum) project, this conference aims to advance the field of heritage interpretation by uniting diverse disciplinary perspectives. Through the exploration of international case studies and practical experiences, it seeks to shed light on the training and professionalisation of heritage interpreters. The conference will enhance our understanding of how heritage can be effectively communicated and preserved across various audiences and settings, while also examining the training required and current development of the sector and its future trajectory.

Reflecting this, the conference identifies several key themes, including but not limited to:

- Heritage Narratives and Identity
- Digital Innovations in Heritage Interpretation
- Community Engagement and Participation
- Challenges of Interpreting Intangible Heritage
- Heritage Interpretation in a Globalised Context
- Sustainability and Ethics in Heritage Interpretation

To participate in the TEHiC final conference, all submissions should be sent via email to TEHiC@gu.se by 25 November 2024.

[Submission information](#)



Opportunities

Assistant Curator/Assistant Lecturer in Classical Archaeology

4th November 2024

University of Oxford - Ashmolean Museum

£33,832 to £39,705 Grade 6 (Full Time / Fixed-Term/Contract)

This is a fixed-term career development opportunity for an individual seeking a career in curatorship and/or university teaching. You will develop the key skills of modern curatorship – including working on permanent displays, temporary exhibitions, and responding to public enquiries – and you will deliver undergraduate teaching in Classical Archaeology. You will be supervised and mentored by staff of the Ashmolean and St John's College, and you will be expected to develop and maintain your own learning objectives throughout the appointment.

This is a full-time, fixed-term post for 21 months, working 37.5 hours per week.

[Learn More](#)

Project Coordinator – Local to Global

23rd October 2024

UNESCO London Office

£30,010.67 per annum, pro rata

UNESCO are looking for a professional who can join us in assisting in implementing the next phase of our National Lottery Heritage Fund Project: *Local to Global 2.0 – From a resilient to an adaptive network*. The project and role will run until August 2026.

The new project will explore devolved power sharing among UNESCO Sites to help build their resilience and adaptability through openness and collaboration. This is an important administrative and coordinator role in delivering the approved purposes of the grant agreement with the National Lottery Heritage Fund by coordinating events and communications across a national network of natural, cultural and built heritage sites.

[Learn More](#)

Museum Documentation Officer (Fixed Term)

31st October 2024

University Park, Nottingham - £34,866 to £46,485 per annum (pro-rata if applicable) depending on skills and experience. Salary progression beyond this scale is subject to performance

This is an exciting opportunity supported by Research England, Museums, Galleries and Collections funding. The role holder will be responsible for enhancing the documentation and organisation of the University of Nottingham Museum's Samian pottery collection (the Felix Oswald Samian pottery collection) and archive with the aim of increasing awareness and discoverability. The role will work alongside the Museum Collections Development Manager and Samian pottery specialist.

[Learn More](#)





Collections Documentation and Access Assistant

20th October 2024

University of Cambridge - Department of Earth Sciences

£23,144 to £25,742 per annum (Full Time / Permanent)

The Sedgwick Museum has a vacancy for a Collections Documentation and Access Assistant to join the Collections team. This new role provides an exciting opportunity to work with a small team focused on supporting world-class teaching and research, by caring for and providing access to the Museum's historically and scientifically important palaeontology and petrology collections. Duties include documenting collections information, assisting with collections enquiries, and preparing objects for research visits and loans.

Limited funding: The funds for this post are available until 30 September 2029 in the first instance. Informal enquiries can be directed to Matt Riley on mlr44@cam.ac.uk.

[Learn More](#)

Conservator

28th October 2024

Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

£27,400 per annum (Full Time / Permanent)

The Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium, based at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK, is offering an exciting opportunity for a Conservator to join the small team working in the conservation studio at the college. The studio has a busy schedule of work, carrying out interventive conservation treatments as well as providing preservation advice on both library and archive materials for the 15 members of the Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium. Good knowledge of historical binding structures and the ability to carry out good quality conservation work will be expected. Previous experience in bookbinding and gold tooling will be appreciated.

[Learn More](#)

Conservator: Preventive

21st October 2024

Bloomsbury, British Museum - £37,783 per annum. Full-time (41 hours per week)

The British Museum has an exciting opportunity for a proficient and experienced Conservator: Preventive to join the Department of Collection Care and contribute towards the care and preservation a world class collection.

You will be joining a growing Preventive Conservation team, providing leadership in coordinating preventive conservation applications in support of the Museum's next phases of core projects and Masterplan. This presents an excellent opportunity to contribute to and support the long-term care of the Museum's collection as it embarks on its most significant cultural redevelopment project ever undertaken.

[Learn More](#)





Marine Historic Environment Record (HER) Officer

13th October 2024

Historic England - Hybrid (Portsmouth, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Manchester, Newcastle, Swindon, York)

£24,730 - £25,861

As our Marine Historic Environment Record (HER) Officer, you will help maintain the National Marine Heritage Record (NMHR) and will provide information to support research and the preparation of policies and proposals for the management of sustainable change in the marine historic environment. You will work to ensure that Historic England (HE), its partners and members of the public have access to accurate and reliable information about the marine historic environment.

You will also assist the Marine HER Manager in the analysis and interpretation of data relating to the marine historic environment, as well as other relevant datasets, and will help provide a specialist customer service for internal and external users of the NMHR.

[Learn More](#)

Manuscript Cataloguer

15th November 2024

College of Arms, 130 Queen Victoria Street, London

£35,000 (Full Time / Fixed-Term/Contract)

The College of Arms is seeking to recruit a full-time employee for a fixed period to prepare a detailed catalogue of a collection of 17th century heraldic and genealogical manuscripts. The catalogue will be the third volume to be published in a series. In 1988 the College of Arms published the first volume A Catalogue of Manuscripts in the College of Arms, subtitled Collections, Volume 1, covering the earliest unofficial collections of the College, including what is sometimes called The Old Library. A second volume in the series was published in 2023 as A Catalogue of Manuscripts in the College of Arms, Records Volume 1, being a comprehensive catalogue of the Tudor visitation manuscripts. The third volume will cover the remaining visitation manuscripts dating from 1603 to the end of the 17th century.

[Learn More](#)

PhD Studentship in Evaluating the Influence of Tangible 3D Printed Replicas on the Museum Experience

24th December 2024

Coventry, University of Warwick - £19,237 Standard PhD at UKRI rates (Stipend / Full Time)

The University of Warwick, and Oxford University Museum of Natural History, are pleased to announce the availability of a fully-funded four-year (full-time) doctoral grant under the AHRC's [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme](#). The studentship will focus on the impact of tangible 3D printed replicas, models produced via the process of additive manufacturing, on the museum experience of visitors. The primary purpose of this is to investigate the feasibility of employing such replicas in museums and how visitors interact with and learn from such objects.

[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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If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive our bulletin, or if you have a notice to post, please contact the editor (heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk).

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

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