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Changing tastes have seen stodgy British puddings become a rarity in the kitchen, raising questions about accepting or resisting cultural change for the sake of preservation.

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### Cover Story

#### *Excavation & Extraction: Rethinking Colonial Collections and Histories at the Houses of Parliament*

By Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge

Reflections from CHRC member Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge's attendance at the *Excavation & Extraction: Rethinking, Challenging and Reframing Colonial Collections and Histories* at Parliament.

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**Cover photo: Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge**  
Dr Partridge presenting at Parliament on the *Excavation & Extraction* panel.

## Excavation & Extraction: Rethinking Colonial Collections and Histories at the Houses of Parliament

Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge, CHRC Member and Clive Collection Provenance Researcher



Image: Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge presenting in Parliament.

On 7 July 2025, Dr Nikita Ved (1928 Institute) and Jasvir Singh CBE (South Asian Heritage Trust) hosted a panel event at the Houses of Parliament titled *Excavation & Extraction: Rethinking, Challenging and Reframing Colonial Collections and Histories*. Bringing together four South Asian women working across education, curatorship, artistic practice and collections research, the panel explored how acts of excavation and extraction can be used to engage more meaningfully and responsibly with colonial topics and heritage. The panel featured Dr Sushma Jansari (South Asia Curator, British Museum), Shalina Patel (historian, teacher and author), Anisha Parmar (artist, jeweller and curator) and Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge (University of Cambridge, Department of Archaeology [Heritage Studies]). In what follows, we highlight Dr Partridge's contribution to the discussion.

### What is Lost in Provenance

Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge's talk focused on the Clive Collection at Powis Castle, which is considered to be one of the most significant collections of South Asian artefacts outside of India. Most of the objects were acquired by two generations of a powerful family in the British East India Company and British colonial history: the Clives. Partridge explained how the provenance of the Clive Collection has long been interpreted through established categories such as 'loot' and 'gift'. These categories uphold Eurocentric understandings of the objects' provenance and reinforce the supremacy of British colonialism. She argued that something is lost in these categories. Namely, the multiple and ambiguous social and cultural relations within and across cultures and empires, all of which are entwined within the objects themselves.

To address this, Partridge developed a new approach to provenance research called *lut*. Derived from the Hindi phrase *lut gaya* ('something that is lost'), *lut* dismantles the neat provenance categories to reveal their instability, recovers buried histories and meanings, and opens space for the coexistence of multiple, even conflicting, object histories.

### **Rethinking 'Loot', Rethinking 'Gift'**

Partridge illustrated the approach by turning to objects categorised as 'loot' in the Clive Collection. Specifically, the objects associated with the Siege of Srirangapatna (1799), where the ruler of Mysuru, Tipu Sultān was defeated by the British East India Company. While the 'loot' provenance in the Clive Collection frames these objects as legitimate military acquisitions or 'prize', Partridge's research into military laws, reports and correspondence reveals that British military culture was far from clear-cut. Laws around the legitimacy of military acquisitions were ambiguous, official reports often omitted evidence of 'unofficial' violence and even the definitions of acquisition terms such as 'prize' were inconsistent. This uncertainty undermines the neat narrative of 'legitimate military acquisition' presented in the Clive Collection. Partridge's research also cast doubt on the authenticity of the objects themselves. She demonstrated how a sword long attributed to Tipu Sultān bears Farsi inscriptions that are misspelled, suggesting that they were added later to inflate its value. Rosewater sprinklers inscribed with claims of having come from Tipu's private apartments likewise appear to have been altered after the fact. Partridge argued that these objects were therefore not just military acquisitions, but acts of self-fashioning by the Clives'; purposeful attempts to fashion themselves into and position themselves as important figures in colonial history.

*Lut* also challenges dominant understandings of the colonial 'gift'. Objects described as 'gifts' in the Clive Collection are typically framed as tokens of favour, diplomacy or friendship. But Partridge's research shows that gifting often carried political and strategic weight. By consulting overlooked South Asian archives and conducting ethnographic studies of contemporary gifting practices in India, Partridge demonstrated that these colonial 'gifts' were far from altruistic. Instead, Company agents often (mis)appropriated South Asian gifting traditions and the multiple social, political and cultural meanings of the gift to serve their own political ends. What colonial narratives described as simple gestures of favour, diplomacy and friendship were in fact embedded in complex systems and games of power.

### **Towards a More Dynamic Future**

*Lut* surfaces the layered, contradictory and messy realities that shaped colonial acquisitions. For Partridge, this is essential for addressing the desires of contemporary audiences; she noted that visitors to Powis Castle increasingly call for more nuanced and critical engagement with the Clive Collection. At the Houses of Parliament, her approach also resonated strongly. Audience members expressed appreciation for the way *lut* acknowledges uncertainty, exposes manipulation and brings South Asian voices and practices back into view.

The *Excavation & Extraction* panel demonstrated how recent work has challenged dominant narratives, surfaced overlooked stories and provided ways in which we can engage with colonial objects and histories in a rooted, inclusive and forward-looking manner. For Partridge, *Iut* represents a way forward not only for the Clive Collection but for colonial collections more broadly. By dismantling dominant narratives, extracting buried meanings and inviting conflict and debate, provenance research can become a tool for more dynamic and responsive engagement.

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Dr Rhea Tuli Partridge is a Cambridge-trained heritage and provenance researcher with experience working on colonial collections from South Asia, most notably the Clive Collection (National Trust) which is regarded as the most important collection of South Asian artefacts outside of India. She has held various curatorial positions, such as curatorial assistant at Kettle's Yard and art curator for the inter-Asia LGBTQIA+ platform, 'Queer' Asia (SOAS/Senate House and the British Museum). Her publications can be accessed on her [academia.edu](#) page.

*Image: Gold tiger head from Tipu Sultan's throne held in the Clive Collection. National Trust.*





## Plans for a Common History of East Asia Museum announced by Shizuoka University

Following on from the last issue's theme of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII, an article by the *Mainichi Shimbun* began circulating in Japanese online media stating plans for a museum documenting the history of East Asia (東アジア共通歴史博物館) led by History Professor Hisaki Kenmochi at the University of Shizuoka. The ambitious project intends to reflect changing practices at European conflict museums which have shifted their narratives from a national focus to one which incorporates the international context and impact of conflict, such as the Imperial War Museum in London and Peronne War History Museum in France.

Prof Kenmochi, who studies modern French history, was inspired by seeing how former wartime enemies in Europe cooperate today to create museums which fully encapsulate the international scope of the Second World War, particularly between France and Germany. The planned museum is not solely focused on conflict, covering the history of East Asia from the prehistoric era to the present day, but Kenmochi clearly states his intention for the museum to critically address Japan's colonial rule in the region. The research team consists of 14 members from Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and elsewhere to ensure a collaborative, international approach forms the project's foundation.

The museum will first 'open' in an online format in March 2026, with future plans for travelling exhibitions and eventually a permanent museum space.

[Learn more](#)

*Image: A Japanese globe of East Asia. Photograph by author (2024).*



## Sweet goodbyes? British puddings fall from culinary cultural practice

A provocative (and poorly sourced) article by English Heritage was published in August calling on the public to ‘Save Our Pudding!’. The article claims that only 2% of British households make homemade puddings daily and 62% never make them at all. Amidst advertisements for English Heritage puddings and cookbooks, Senior Curator of History at English Heritage Dr Andrew Hann states that “although our waistlines might benefit ... it would be a huge shame for [the practice] to die out.” He also highlights that younger generations “rarely eat them”, with only 17% of 18-14 year olds referencing a traditional pudding as their favourite sweet treat as opposed to 45% of respondents over 55.

While the article certainly wouldn’t pass peer review, it does raise interesting questions around intervening in intangible cultural practices. Few aspects of culture are more changeable than eating habits, with recipes varying from house to house, influenced by past and present migration, and subject to health norms of the day. Should heritage organisations encourage popular tastes of the past or incorporate the new intangible culinary practices of the day? Is the practice of baking a homemade pudding something worth intervening in to save or shall it happily be relegated to living museum cafeterias?

[Learn more](#)

*Image: A classic sticky toffee pudding. Public domain.*





## Bringing living heritage into classrooms: new UNESCO episode explores disaster risk reduction in the Pacific

The newly released episode aims to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding living heritage in the face of disasters. It also introduces the core concepts of disaster risk reduction and intangible cultural heritage into schools across the Pacific region.

The episode is intended for use in classrooms and community workshops to help young people make the link between their cultural heritage and community resilience to disasters.

It is also intended for use in policy discussions, as a means of supporting governments in integrating culture into disaster risk reduction strategies. Available in English, Bislama, Fijian and Tongan, the episode is designed to help Pacific States integrate disaster risk reduction into the inventorying of their intangible cultural heritage — also referred to as living heritage as it adapts, evolves and thrives across generations. This is in line with [UNESCO's Operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies](#).

UNESCO has produced the video in partnership with the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, which functions under the auspices of UNESCO.

*Image: "[Tanna domestic, Vanuatu, June 2009](#)" by [In Memoriam: PhillipC](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).*

[Learn more](#)

## The World in Florence - Heritage: Peace & Move

27-28 November  
Florence (Italy)



The 2025 edition of The World in Florence marks the fifth and final year of this first cycle. A meaningful milestone that we have chosen to dedicate to the highest purpose of our mission: fostering dialogue for peace among cultures through the shared value of heritage.

This year, more than ever, we want to offer that same space to listen to your voices and shape the event around the themes that matter most to you. By doing so, we aim to strengthen the role of Learning Communities as centers of awareness—places where individuals can engage in dialogue-based initiatives and contribute to the creation of a culture of peace.

If you are interested in taking part in TWIF 2025 as an active participant, please read the possible discussion topics that will be discussed at the event tables and prepare the required material for a constructive and useful debate to bring about real change in your local community. Once you have prepared your material, proceed with buying the ticket (€270) and you will receive the link to the registration form to fill out.

[Register Here](#)

## Museums Association | Conference 2025: Perthyn – Belonging

October 6-9

St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff  
Online and in-person

The Museums Association conference theme this year focuses on *perthyn*, the Welsh word meaning to belong.

Museums and their collections and stories belong to everyone, and all communities have the right to representation, participation and agency. Belonging is not just a principle but a basic human right.

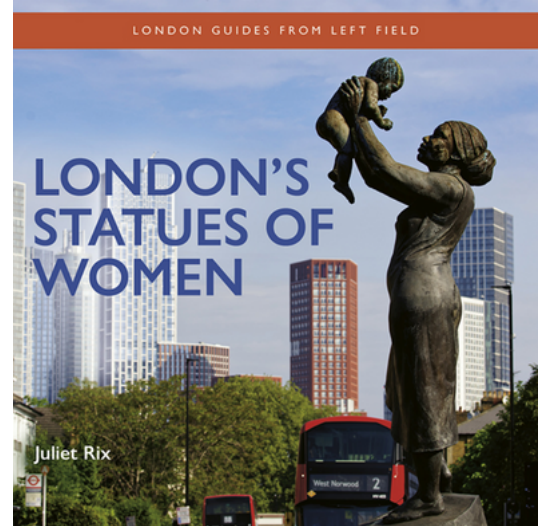
At a time of global political, economic, social upheaval and polarisation, we discuss how ideas of community, solidarity and friendship bring people together in our museums to make them such special and engaging places.

Tickets available from £55. [Financial support](#) is available for attendees.

[Register Here](#)

## PSSA | Capital Women: London's statues of the 'fairer sex'

October 21, 6:30pm  
Online



*Capital Women: London's statues of the 'fairer sex'* by Juliet Rix

Introducing the Public Statues and Sculptures Association's sixth series of *Discovering Women Sculptors*, this talk will discuss statues by women sculptors in London and expand the topic to cover the statues of women in the Capital included in her book, *London Statues of Women* (Safe Haven Books) which was published this summer. These women, many of whom have only been commemorated with statues in recent years, are 'an extraordinary and varied band with exceptional tales to tell'. The talk will range across some remarkable characters represented by accomplished sculptors, from Gillian Wearing's Millicent Fawcett (the first statue of a woman in Parliament Square) and Maggi Hambling's controversial Mary Wollstonecraft memorial, to WWII spies and a 'poetical' mathematician, Virginia Woolf and Elizabeth I, as well as statues commemorating 'ordinary people' in war and peace.

**Juliet Rix** is an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster. After a degree in history of art at Cambridge, she worked for the BBC in television then radio, including a couple of years as a foreign correspondent before settling into freelance life in London. She works for the *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Times*, and online art magazine *Studio International*, among others.

£3.50 non-member tickets, free for members.

[Register Here](#)

## SAVE | Exploring the lost Walbrook River

October 15, 6-8pm  
Shoreditch High Street Station



Last seen more than six centuries ago, the hidden currents of the Walbrook still flow beneath the modern streetscape of the City of London. This walking tour follows its forgotten path, threading through the ever-changing urban fabric from Shoreditch, outside the City walls, to the Thames itself. Trace key moments in London's history from the cataclysmic Great Fire, the reconstruction after the devastation of the Blitz to the exodus to suburban living that began in the Victorian times. Witness the relentless adaptation to accommodate the burgeoning finance industry, while concurrently witnessing a contemporary shift towards reimagining urban landscapes and revitalising public spaces. Buildings encountered en route include the 1980s Broadgate Centre, Soane's Bank of England, Foster's Stirling Prize-winning Bloomberg building and Wren's ingenious domed church of St Stephen Walbrook – all have undergone careful re-evaluation, showcasing the evolving landscape of urban design. Along this journey, we delve into the historical, cultural, and architectural layers that define the river's course, culminating in a rendezvous on the Thames foreshore. Here, at low tide, we uncover the final vestiges of London's most significant yet obscure waterway.

**Dr Tom Bolton** is an urban researcher and writer, specialising in architecture, urban planning, and regeneration. He leads community review and research at Frame Projects. Tom is the author of *Camden Town: Dreams of Another London*, *Vanished City: London's Lost Neighbourhoods*, *London's Lost Rivers: A Walker's Guide* and *A Walker's Guide Volume 2*.

**Tickets:** Members £17 | General Public £19.50 | Students £7.00 (incl. Eventbrite booking fee)

[Register Here](#)

## ICOMOS-Spain | III International Symposium on Cultural Heritage

September 25-27, 2025

Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura, University of Valladolid (Spain)

# ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

The III International Symposium on Cultural Heritage ICOMOS-Spain aims to provide the cultural heritage community with a forum for the presentation of the latest research and developments in the field of documentation, conservation, restoration, protection, management and dissemination of monuments, ensembles, sites and manifestations of cultural heritage.

The Symposium has a broad perspective and seeks to bring together different disciplines and different types of professionals, such as architecture, history, archaeology, art history, geography, anthropology, conservation-restoration, engineering, urban planning, tourism, etc.

The meeting is not limited to UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites and events, but is open to all types of monuments and sites, including emerging and endangered heritage. The symposium will be open to case studies, synthesis and reflection.

**Deadline for submission of papers:** 9 May 2025.

NB. The working language during the Symposium is Spanish.



[Register Here](#)



## Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies | Shaping the Future of Cultural Heritage and Technology

November 3-5, 2025  
Vienna, Austria

**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites



For 30 years, the Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies (CHNT) has served as a premier platform for professionals, researchers, and institutions dedicated to the advancement of cultural heritage preservation through innovative technologies. Founded by Wolfgang Börner and originally organized by Stadtarchäologie Wien, CHNT has grown into a renowned international event, fostering interdisciplinary exchange in the fields of documentation, research, management, and conservation of cultural heritage.

With the transition of CHNT to the National Committee of ICOMOS Austria, the conference is now supported by the Austrian Focal Point for World Heritage at the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Public Service, and Sport.

This marks a new era, expanding CHNT's focus to World Heritage research, management, and protection, while continuing to explore cutting-edge digital applications and technological solutions for cultural heritage.

As Vienna navigates its commitments to UNESCO-listed sites such as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, the Historic Centre of Vienna, and Schönbrunn Palace, CHNT plays a crucial role in facilitating knowledge exchange, policy discussions, and the development of sustainable strategies for heritage management. The conference remains committed to bridging the gap between innovative research and real-world applications, ensuring that new technologies are practical, accessible, and impactful.

Each year, CHNT welcomes a diverse, interdisciplinary audience of experts, practitioners, and decision-makers to discuss the opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities of heritage preservation in the digital age.

[Register Here](#)

## University of Liverpool | Conference: Lessons from the Past

23-24 March 2026

Call for papers now open (deadline TBC)

**Digging into the past to build a sustainable future**

Humanity faces unprecedented challenges, or does it?

People who study the past have a unique and broad perspective on humanity. With the challenges of the modern world, this deep understanding has never been more important in shaping our attitudes and responses.

The University of Liverpool department for Archaeology, Classics, and Egyptology (ACE), in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainability Research (ICSR) and Victoria Gallery and Museum, invite abstract and poster submissions for the hybrid conference “Lessons from the Past: UN Sustainability Goals” to be held on the 23rd and the 24th March, 2026.

Talks must result in a tangible recommendation to a specified body (e.g. a non-profit institution, local council, University, Government department, or even the United Nations). Presentations should explain how knowledge of the past supports the recommendation. Talks will be selected based on the feasibility of their recommendation and strength of linkage between the proposal made and the evidence used to support it. Poster submissions do not require a recommendation but should include relevant information linking knowledge of the past with a specific UN sustainability goal.

We are keen to hear from a broad range of speakers and welcome submissions from Archaeologists, Evolutionary anthropologists, Historians, Classicists, Egyptologists, and anyone else who studies humans in the past. Submitted abstracts will be blind reviewed.

[More details here](#)



## Postdoctoral Research Associate in Human Geography

8 October 2025

### Durham University

Durham University is seeking a Research and Innovation Associate with a particular emphasis on the role of local heritage in the Green Corridors of the North East.

The aim of GCNE is to develop new co-created arts- and humanities-led research practices that will contribute significantly to the transformative regeneration of green corridors in the UK and beyond. The project will develop, spread, and scale a co-produced model of placemaking.

The project spans more than 35 miles of three green corridors in the North East: The Tyne Derwent Way in Gateshead, Durham City Green Corridor, and the Tees to Topping Green Corridor running into and out of Middlesbrough. These three green corridors are part of an ambitious programme being led by the National Trust to help work in partnership to establish 20 green corridors across England, Northern Ireland and Wales by 2030, working in urban areas to address unequal access to and deliver benefits for nature, heritage, and people. Green corridors have risen to prominence as vital tools in urban planning, as well as connecting pockets of nature, they also connect people to their natural and cultural heritage.

This post is fixed term with funding for 27 months as the project is time limited and will end on 31st March 2028.

Successful applicants will, ideally, be in post by 1st November 2025.

[Learn More](#)

## AHRC funding: Cultural heritage and climate change networks to drive policy change

14 October 2025

Apply for Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) funding to maximise the international partnership brokering and networking policy opportunities of UK arts and humanities research, as a step towards the Horizon Europe Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funding.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £60,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

Projects will be funded up to a maximum of 12 months and must start on 1 February 2026 and must be completed by 31 January 2027.

[Learn more](#)





## Max Planck Research Group Leader

14 October 2025



### Max Planck Society (MPG)

To support emerging scholars early in their career, the MPG invites all outstanding scientists with a doctorate and groundbreaking research to apply for one of several positions as a Max Planck Research Group Leader.

Successful candidates will lead their own independent Max Planck Research Group at a participating Max Planck Institute of their own choice for a period of six years. An extension of up to three more years is possible. The funding package covers a W2 position (equivalent to an assistant or non-tenured associate professor level), resources for scientific staff and a generous budget for equipment and consumables. The total funding for a Max Planck Research Group is competitive with other top international career development programmes and amounts to up to 2.7 million euros for the initial six years.

Once accepted for the position as Max Planck Research Group Leader, successful candidates can participate at the MPG/TUM career programme and apply for a position as Tenure Track Assistant Professor at the Technische Universität München. Tenure track options may also be possible with other universities on an individual basis. Furthermore, the MPG also considers promoting outstanding Research Group Leaders when filling vacant director positions.

As an open and diverse organization, the MPG is characterized by a high proportion of international scientists, its decentralized structures and the subject-specific needs of its three scientific sections. Valuing and promoting all MPG employees regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, social background, and the need to balance work and family life, is an overarching organizational development goal of all personnel development and career measures at the MPG. Applications from people with severe disabilities are strongly encouraged. Furthermore, the MPG is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals.

Your application should include:

- a cover letter,
- a full CV,
- a list of publications,
- a research summary (about your main goals of research and choice of MPI),
- a research proposal,
- links to or copies of the three most important papers
- two letters of recommendation.

[Learn more](#)





## Contribute

We would be especially interested in hearing from you about events and opportunities. Contributions in the form of short reviews of conferences, exhibitions, publications or other events/material that you have attended/read are also welcome. Please note that advertisements for any non-CHRC events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

## Subscribe

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

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

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

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