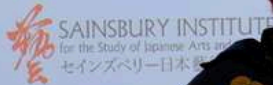


## 26th Annual CHRC Symposium

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

Day 1 - Friday 8th May 2026



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by William Wright

This week, CHRC member and CHS committee member William Wright reflects on the themes and discussions from the Cambridge Heritage Symposium on ontological security and heritage.

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#### Cover image:

Dr Liliana Janik welcoming attendees to the 26<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Heritage Symposium.

Photo by Shiting Lin.

## The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium: The Role of Heritage in Shaping Ontological Security in the Contemporary World

by William Wright



*Image: Dr Liliانا Janik welcoming attendees to the 26<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Heritage Symposium.*

*Photo by Shiting Lin.*

Friday and Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May saw the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre open its doors to welcome scholars from across the world of Heritage Studies and beyond for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium, entitled “The Role of Heritage in Shaping Ontological Security in the Contemporary World.” Hosted jointly with the Sainsbury Institute for the study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, the symposium sought to interrogate the link between heritage and the wide-ranging concept of ontological security, theorised most prominently by Anthony Giddens and Jane Grenville.

Calling for papers on the themes of resilience, commemoration, shared identity, and well-being, the response was overwhelming in its diversity, producing twenty presentations, twelve posters, and one keynote from speakers representing seventeen institutions in twelve different countries. This diversity extended beyond origins and subject matter and into perspectives on and understandings of heritage and ontological security, with symposium participants constantly calling into question any facile or straightforward relationship between heritage and ontological security.

The first day of the symposium opened with a panel on “Recovery & Time,” questioning how heritage does and does not provide ontological security in spaces of conflict and rupture both recent and long past. Centred on the case studies of reconstruction policy in wartime Ukraine and post-2015 Diyarbakır, the panel highlighted questions of scale, highlighting how the ontological securities of the state, group, and individual can come into conflict, especially in cases of communal or international violence. The second panel of the day, on “Creative Ontologies,” asked similar questions through a markedly different lens, swapping state policy in a context of conflict for the artistic, creative, and monumental. Drawing on the oeuvre of Marc Chagall, Tinian marble craft, and the monumentalisation of Yoruba myth and history, the panel also questioned the assumption of ontological security as a baseline or state of origin, instead highlighting its role as a project under constant reconstruction, the value of which is located less in its achievement than in the seeking thereof.

The afternoon panels on “Everyday Heritage & Communal Security” and “(In)Security in Past Colonialisms” furthered these themes. Presentations on Malabar Theyyam, football in post-industrial North-East England, and Moravian community in District Six, South Africa all investigated the complex interactions between rupture and continuity that everyday heritage can provide, locating ontological security in a more fragmented landscape of practice than Giddens’ focus on continuity and recurrence might indicate as possible. Presentations on the memorialisation of victims of the Japanese “comfort women” system of the Asia-Pacific War (1931-45), colonial and international heritage in Lushun, and memorial politics in the Baltic states brought valuable new voices into the discussion of ontological security and violence on the national, group, and individual scales. The first day of the symposium ended with a keynote presentation from Dr. Claire Nolan (University College, Dublin), examining with both analytical rigour and deep empathy the ways in which heritage contributes to ontological security and wellbeing, as well as the complications those interactions can raise for heritage practitioners.

*Image: Q&A for the Creative Ontologies panel with (L-R) Dr Dacia Viejo-Rose, Dr Isavella Voulgareli & Akeem Adagbada, moderated by Dr Shiting Lin.*





*Image: (L-R) Prof Simon Kaner introducing the post-war memory panel; SUZUKI Katsuo, chief curator at the Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; and Prof KIKUCHI Seiichi, Showa Women's University.*

The second day of the symposium opened with a special panel on “Ontological security and post-war memory: Japanese heritage narratives of the Asia-Pacific War at 80,” co-hosted by Professor Simon Kaner of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the CHRC’s own Oliver Moxham. Visiting speakers Professor KIKUCHI Seiichi (Showa Women’s University) and curator SUZUKI Katsuo (Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo) delved into the difficult topics of repatriating the remains of Imperial Japanese soldiers and the place of wartime “documentary” propaganda artwork in the Japanese artistic tradition, the panel contextualised the symposium’s themes of conflicting and emergent ontological securities in the context of a fraught memory culture.

Themes of memory would carry the rest of the symposium’s final day in panels entitled “Tools of Ontology” and “Seeking Stability in (post-)Conflict.” Drawing together digital methods, oral histories, and the ethics and language of care and responsibility, “Tools of Ontology” explored multiple methods through which heritage researchers and practitioners might empower communities to transform memory, or lack thereof, into living and meaningful heritage in the cases of the Chagossian Diaspora, post-Yugoslav states, and contemporary Türkiye.



*Image: The 2026 Cambridge Heritage Symposium Committee. (L-R) Dr Shiting Lin, Aimée Daffarn, Ladin Akcacioglu, Oliver Moxham, María Ruigomez-Eraso & William Wright.*

The conference's final panel brought the politics of memorialisation to the table, examining the role of museums, archaeological sites, and spontaneous monumentalisation in the conflicting searches for ontological security amongst individuals, groups, and states.

That the symposium's investigation of the link between ontological security and heritage yielded something less than a concrete answer is, perhaps, to have been expected: faced with such a diversity of contexts and such a wealth of theoretical insight, synthesis was always likely to be difficult. As the final discussion moderated by Professor Simon Kaner, Oliver Moxham, and [Dr Shiting Lin](#) emphasised, however, attendees emerged from the symposium with a reinforced confidence in the value of ontological security and heritage as complementary objects of study, with their intersection yielding valuable insights into the questions of scale and process that are so central to both.

In addition to all speakers, poster presenters, and participants, the CHRC would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the [Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation](#), [the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research](#), [the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures](#), [the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee](#) and [the A.G. Leventis Foundation](#), whose sponsorship made the event possible. The CHRC would also like to thank and recognise the organising committee of [Dr. Liliana Janik](#), [Aimée Daffarn](#), [Oliver Moxham](#), [Shiting Lin](#), [María Ruigomez Eraso](#), [Ladin Akcacioglu](#), and [William Wright](#), as well as symposium volunteers [Hannah McGurk](#), Emmeline Witt, and Grace Edwards, for their tireless work in ensuring the success of the event. Links to the symposium's programme and online poster exhibition can be found on [the CHRC website](#).

## Bio

[William Wright](#) is a current PhD student in the Department of Archaeology, Osborne Research Student in Medieval Studies at Sidney Sussex College, and Graduate Member of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre. His research focuses on the intersection of heritage, media, and national identity in the medieval and modern worlds, seeking to trace how, when, and why myths of national origin are created, propagated, and maintained in Iceland and the United States. He has also published on medieval Scandinavian archaeology and the use of fiction in cultural reconstruction.



## London named best city in the world for culture



Image: [Notting Hill Carnival 2014](#) by Angel Ganev (CC BY 2.0).

London has been named the best city in the world for culture by global online magazine Time Out. The capital was recognised for its large, high-quality, accessible cultural scene, which included "theatre, art galleries, museums, literary festivals, live music and comedy".

The ranking resulted from surveying more than 24,000 city residents worldwide and gathering insights from a panel of Time Out experts and editors. Justine Simons, deputy mayor for culture and the creative industries, said London was a "global cultural capital". She added: "Culture is our DNA in London. It's worth £64bn to the London economy. It's the reason most of our tourists come here." Time Out ranked Paris, France, second for culture and New York, United States, third.

Simons said the accessibility of culture was important in the capital. "In London you can see everything. You can go to a grassroots music venue, you can go to a mega concert, you can find art in a car park in Peckham, you can go to Tate Modern - it's the dynamism of all those creative disciplines working together. Free museums and galleries are absolutely at the heart of our success as a cultural capital. It's so important that everyone gets access to culture."

[Learn more](#)

## Lost nuclear bunker from Cold War era discovered beneath medieval castle



*Image: The bunker was found on the grounds of Scarborough Castle, North Yorkshire. Photo by [brianfagan](#) (CC BY 2.0).*

A Cold War-era concrete bunker, once a secret outpost of Britain's nuclear defence, has been unearthed during an archaeological dig at Scarborough Castle. The underground facility, built to house Royal Observer Corps (ROC) volunteers tasked with plotting nuclear bomb impacts across Britain, was discovered within the grounds of the historic North Yorkshire landmark. Experts from English Heritage have now opened the entrance to the chamber and lowered cameras to assess its condition.

The bunker is one of 1,500 constructed nationwide between 1963 and 1964, designed to detect nuclear explosions and withstand an attack. The vital posts included communications facilities and bunkbeds for the ROC's largely unsung 20,000-strong volunteer force. This particular bunker appears to have been sealed and buried in 1968. Its exact location and state remained unknown until now, according to English Heritage.

The discovery forms part of a wider project led by the charity to mark 100 years of the ROC. It also includes a search for past members and an event at the York Cold War Bunker. The excavation began on 7 March, following analysis of existing data and a newly commissioned ground survey.

[Learn more](#)





## May



<p><b>Thursday 7</b> 12:00 Edmund Leach Room, Department of Social Anthropology</p>	<p><b>Environmental Storytelling Against the Grain: Crafting nonlinear narratives through film</b> Virginie Tetoofa, Director; Eliana Ritts, CRASSH; Rupert Stasch, University of Cambridge</p>	
<p><b>Saturday 9</b> 13:00 SG1, Alison Richard Building</p>	<p><b>Shorts programme: Ocean Pollution and Self-Determination</b> James Simonee (Ujjirijavut), Director; Vincent L'Hérault (Ujjirijavut), Director; Barbara Bodenhorn, University of Cambridge; Eliana Ritts, CRASSH; Rupert Stasch, University of Cambridge</p>	

### ISDG SYMPOSIUM 2026

<p><b>Thursday 14</b> <b>9:00-18:00</b> Online</p>	<p><b>Voices of the Land and Sea: Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Futures</b> 7 Panels, 26 Speakers, Opening &amp; Closing Remarks by Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, University of Cambridge and Prof. Wayne Garnons-Williams, University of Waterloo</p>
<p><b>Friday 15</b> 17:00 McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research</p>	<p> <b>Hani (2024) Film Screening &amp; Conversation with Director Hou Dasheng</b> Drama, 73mins Languages: Hani/Akha &amp; Mandarin with English Subtitles</p>

## June

### Panel Series: Digitalising Indigeneity in India: Preservation, Power, and Dispossession

<p><b>Tuesday 23</b> 13:00 Online</p>	<p><b>Part I: Living Archives: Indigenous Agency, Knowledge, and Digital Cultural Preservation in India</b> Sudhir Horo, Tribal Design Forum; Rahi Soren, Jadavpur University; Monali Longmailai, Assam University</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 24</b> 13:00 Online</p>	<p><b>Part II: From Mistranslation to Dispossession: Culture, Land, and Algorithmic Power in India</b> Sushmita, Pulitzer Center Fellow; Neha Joshi &amp; Pamir Gogoi, Karya Inc. ; Olivia Ruhil, IIT-Delhi</p>



[Book here](#)



Royal Geographical Society |  
Britain and beyond: Discovering Islamic Heritage

Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

May 19, 7-8:30pm | Hybrid attendance



Join us for a panel discussion exploring the geographical and historical links that connect Britain with the Islamic world. Our discussion will draw on the Society's collections and our speakers' expertise including everyday intangible heritage, travel writing and material culture.

Speakers include Tharik Hussain (Travel Writer and Author of *Minarets in the Mountains and Muslim Europe*), Sadiya Ahmed (Founder of *Everyday Muslim*) and Imran Mulla (Journalist and Author of *The Indian Caliphate*).

About the Society: The Royal Geographical Society was founded in 1830 as an institution to promote the advancement of geographical science. Its headquarters lie within an iconic Grade II\* listed building in the cultural quarter at South Kensington. The Society has one of the most notable geographical collections in the world. Of the two million items in the collections, one million are maps – the oldest a version of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia*, dating back to 1486 and once owned by William Morris. There are a quarter of a million books, half a million images and a rich resource manuscripts, diaries, letters and artefacts. Today, the Society runs a number of in-person and online events for Members and the general public.

**Time and date:** Tuesday 19 May, 7pm-8:30pm

**Location:** Royal Geographical Society (London) and online

**Price:** Online £5-6, In-person £10-£12. Students can attend free using code PANELSTUDENT at checkout.

[Book here](#)

## Museums Association | All Inclusive: Championing Accessible Museums



May 20 | Online



Ableism – prioritising the needs of non-disabled people over disabled people – remains pervasive across the museum sector. Disabled people still face barriers in our buildings, policies and structures, and are chronically under-represented in our workforce and collections.

All Inclusive is the Museums Association’s annual online conference exploring how museums can become anti-ableist in everything that they do. Anti-ableism recognises abled privilege and actively looks to challenge and dismantle it through theory, actions and practices.

Come to ‘All Inclusive’ to hear provocations, case studies and panel discussions and discover...

- what an anti-ableist museum might look like in practice
- how to challenge and dismantle ableism in your museum
- ways to elevate the perspectives of D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people
- how to remove barriers in buildings and policies
- ideas to build a representative workforce.

This event is for you if...

- you work in any aspect of people or volunteer management
- your role involves engagement with the public
- you manage a small museum with wide-ranging responsibilities
- you have human resources responsibilities
- you are responsible for access, diversity and inclusion in your organisation.

**Tickets:** Members: £47 | Non-members: £69

[Book here](#)





Patrimonio, Cuidados y Personas  
en un mundo resiliente

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## HERITAGE, CARE AND PEOPLE

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

MAY 27- 29 / 2026  
MADRID



### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – DEADLINES

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

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

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



#### ORGANIZES



PID2021-127248OB-I00



[Book here](#)

## University of Cambridge | AI meets cultural heritage: Non-invasive imaging and machine learning techniques for the reconstruction of degraded historical sheet music

June 1, 12-1pm | Cambridge, William Gates building, Room SS03



The Accelerate Lunchtime Seminar Series is organised by Accelerate Program for Scientific Discovery exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence in scientific research and its broader societal impact. These seminars typically take place once a month on Mondays from 12:00–13:00 during term time in the William Gates Building, with pizza lunch provided.

In this talk we discuss the potential of non-invasive imaging and machine learning techniques for the reconstruction of degraded medieval music notation. Our examples include manuscripts and fragments that suffer from different kinds of degradations rendering parts of the notation illegible. Such degradations may happen due to chemical or physical damage, for example from iron-gall acidity or from deliberate erasure. When appropriate for the problem at hand, multispectral imaging (MSI) has the power to envision the invisible, depending on the choice of post-processing for the visualization. We compare the images acquired from different MSI systems as well as traditional versus our advanced post-processing, and demonstrate the success on medieval manuscripts and fragments with musical notation from Oxbridge libraries. Lastly, we will shortly introduce our novel MSI processing toolbox, that will be publicly available soon.

[Learn more](#)



## SAVE | Belonging in Built Spaces: Reimagining Buildings for Community

June 17, 6-7:30pm | The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London



As part of the 2026 London Festival of Architecture theme, Belonging, SAVE Britain's Heritage hosts a discussion with The Kings Foundation, Nudge Community Builders and Harrison Stringfellow Architects to explore how neglected buildings and streets around the country can become places where people belong. Reuse brings spaces back to life and makes them part of our the future as well as the past.

This discussion brings national foundations, architects and grassroots groups together to offer their perspectives from London, Lancashire, Liverpool and Plymouth on the power of re-using existing buildings.

**Chair:**

Henrietta Billings – Director of SAVE Britain's Heritage

**Panellists:**

Hannah Sloggett – Co-Director of Nudge Community Builders

Sarah Robinson – Associate Director of The Kings Foundation

Su Stringfellow – Director of Harrison Stringfellow Architects Ltd

Doors open 17:45 – event starts promptly at 18:00.

**Price:** General £9 | Friends & Saviours £8

[Book here](#)

## AHM | Unsettling Heritage and Memory Futures: Decolonial Trajectories Between Crisis and Possibility

Amsterdam | June 17-19



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 centering 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.

[Book here](#)



## UK Maritime Heritage Forum | Challenges for the Future

Abstract deadline: May 29, 12pm

**October 20-22 | Historic Dockyard Chatham**

The UK Maritime Heritage Forum is an annual conference and networking event that brings together museum organisations, professionals, volunteers, and policymakers dedicated to preserving and promoting the UK's rich maritime heritage. The event provides an opportunity to share knowledge, showcase best practice, and discuss challenges and opportunities facing the sector. Through talks, panels, and networking, the Forum helps strengthen collaboration and support in the maritime heritage sector.

**Themes**

- Changing audiences and programming challenges.
- Security and technology-developing technologies such as AI and increased risks in cyber security.
- Fundraising.
- Climate and the environment.
- A changing volunteer workforce.
- Preserving maritime heritage skills and the opportunities for apprenticeships.

**Submission formats**

- Poster session – display a flipchart-sized poster during conference breaks to share updates on something that you're working on in an informal, friendly environment, and to talk one to one with other delegates about your project.
- 20-minute illustrated paper – these can provide either an overview of an issue or focus on a case study. Speakers are asked to provide a 20-minute illustrated presentation.
- 5-minute summary – an opportunity to share your news updates, ideas and experiences of change, presented as a short verbal update.

[Apply here](#)

## ICOMOS TheoPhilos | Amazing city: historic public spaces in the age of climate change



Abstract deadline: June 15

### Objectives & thematic scope

The aim of the conference is to create a platform for interdisciplinary discussion and exchange of experience between representatives of local governments, conservation authorities, academic communities and design practitioners – architects, urban planners and landscape architects – concerning contemporary conditions, principles, forms and limits for the shaping of historic public spaces, particularly in the context of their adaptation to climate change.

The conference also aims to encourage deeper reflection on the relationship between the protection of heritage values and the need to introduce environmental and functional solutions. An important element of the debate will be to define the scope of permissible interventions in the substance and composition of historic public spaces, as well as to develop principles for balancing conservation, social, aesthetic and climate-related requirements. Another objective of the meeting is the identification of good practices in the management and modernisation of public spaces in historic cities, as well as the indication of models of cooperation between local government and heritage protection authorities.

An important component of the conference will be the presentation of theoretical studies and practical solutions developed within the Re-Public Spaces project, co-financed by the Interreg Central Europe Programme. The project concerns the adaptation of historic courtyards to climate challenges in Central Europe and culminated in the implementation of four pilot climate-oriented revitalisation projects in partner cities: Łódź (Poland), Pinerolo (Italy), Osijek (Croatia) and Velenje (Slovenia), addressing the most significant local climatic factors.

As part of the summary of the Re-Public Spaces project, recommendations concerning a document formulating the principles for the protection and modernisation of historic public spaces in the context of climate change – the Charter for the Modernisation and Protection of Historic Public Spaces – will be discussed, evaluated and subsequently adopted during the conference.

### Submission information

Abstracts should be submitted by 15 June 2026 [by email](#). Abstracts should not exceed two pages of text (a structure in the form of separate points will help reviewers grasp the concept of the presentations).

[Apply here](#)



## GCH 2026 | 23rd EUROGRAPHICS Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage

Abstract deadline: June 1 / July 22



### November 2-5 | Barcelona

*Location & Venue:* The workshop is hosted by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in the vibrant city of Barcelona, Spain.

*Organisation:* GCH 2026 is organised by the ViRVIG Research Centre (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) and supported by Eurographics.

GCH 2026 has opened its Call for Papers which includes a special track on the ECCCH, “Visual Computing in the Context of the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage”. We are pleased to invite you to contribute to the 23rd EUROGRAPHICS Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage (GCH 2026).

### Themes

- Digitisation of CH resources (3D scanning, motion capture, multispectral imaging, X-ray, terahertz imaging, etc.)
- Material acquisition, reconstruction, and preservation
- Visualisation for CH applications
- Advanced rendering techniques
- eXtended reality applications in the field of CH
- Collaborative interactive eXtended and hybrid environments
- AI tools for CH applications
- Multi-modal analysis of CH data
- Spatial and mobile augmentation of physical collections
- Emotional and cognitive user experience design
- Interactive solutions and HCI design for CH applications
- Virtual museums, digital technologies and applications for museums
- Digital fabrication, including 3D printing for tangible interfaces
- Semantic technologies for digital libraries
- FAIR visual CH data, including large-scale datasets

[Apply here](#)

## *Heritage* Call for Papers | Cultural Tourism, UNESCO Sites and 2030 Agenda: Where Are We At?

Abstract deadline:  
August 31



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.

[Apply here](#)



# Opportunities

Ashmolean Museum |  
CHRYSOS+ Project - Research Assistant



May 22

**Hours:** Part-time, 18.75 hours a week

**Salary:** £35,681 - £41,636 p.a. pro rata

## About the role

The Ashmolean Museum, home to the internationally recognised Heberden Coin Room, offers an opportunity to contribute to CHRYSOS+, a research project exploring wealth transfer in the ancient world. You will work closely with the Principal Investigator to support the development of a structured, interdisciplinary research framework.

You will help consolidate and standardise numismatic datasets, review archaeological and textual sources, and support the integration of scientific analyses of coinage. The role includes contributing to digital research tools, preparing research outputs, and engaging with project partners and academic audiences.

This is a fixed-term (research project) post for 12 months, working part-time for 18.75 hours per week. The anticipated working pattern will be agreed with the line manager and includes up to four days of remote working.

## About you

You will hold, or be close to completing by summer 2026, a master's degree in a relevant discipline such as Classics, Ancient History, or Archaeology, and have knowledge of ancient coinage and related sources. You will have experience working with structured data and demonstrate strong analytical and organisational skills.

You will have excellent attention to detail and communication skills, with the ability to work both independently and collaboratively within a research team. Familiarity with numismatics, museum collections, or digital research methods would be advantageous.

## How to apply

You will be required to upload your CV and a supporting statement as part of your online application. Your supporting statement should list each of the essential and desirable selection criteria, as listed in the job description, and explain how you meet each one. CVs alone will not be considered.

[Apply here](#)





# Opportunities

## Swansea University | AHRC Doctoral Studentship in History and Heritage Studies



May 22

**Hours:** Full-time

**Salary:** £22,405 p.a.

### About the role

The Amgueddfa Cymru (AC) and its Natural Science collections, comprising botanical, zoological and geological specimens, carry within them echoes of the British Empire. Although the Museum itself was not established until the twentieth century, several collections predate its foundation and reflect the collecting practices and erasure of the labour of indigenous and other non-privileged workers characteristic of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century natural history. Some collections came from overseas in the 1920s and 1930s, as part of efforts to gather the material resources of the empire, to understand them, to better exploit them, and display imperial power and wealth. Colonial associations came in many guises. Certain museum officials had direct commercial or personal links to the colonies. Others were indirectly linked through inherited family wealth, acquired via trade with the colonies, which they used to build extensive collections subsequently donated to the Museum.

Individual collectors closely linked to the colonies include George Henry Douglas Pennant (1876-1915) who donated several African trophy heads, and whose inherited wealth derived from Jamaican sugar plantations and exploitation of the enslaved. David Davies (1880-1944), Welsh politician, also gifted African hunting trophies. J. C. Melvill (1845-1929), grandson of the last secretary of the East India Company, and director of a firm of East India and China cotton merchants, collected molluscs and vascular plants. Some collectors were involved during the nascent years of the Museum, as trustees, council members, or patrons. T. W. Proger (1860-1947), museum council member and naturalist, had business interests in the Falkland Islands, and collected there and in other European colonies in the Americas. Proger's specimens are found across the Natural Science collections.

The Echoes of Empire project will develop a fuller understanding of the colonial histories of Natural Science collections at AC, and use participatory heritage practices to engage with and interpret those difficult legacies.

[Apply here](#)





# Opportunities

## National Trust | Industrial Heritage Demonstrations Manager

May 31



**Position:** Permanent

**Hours:** Part-time, 22.5 hours a week

**Salary:** £14.60 ph

### About the role

At Quarry Bank, the whirr of looms and the rhythm of heritage machinery bring history to life every day. We're looking for an Industrial Heritage Demonstrations Manager to lead our talented demonstrator team, ensuring visitors experience the sights, sounds and stories that make this place truly special. If you're passionate about heritage textiles, engaging storytelling, and motivating people to deliver exceptional experiences, this could be the perfect opportunity.

This is a part time role, working 3 days a week. The days will be mostly Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, but there will be regular weekend working and so flexibility is needed. This is a job share role.

If you're someone who enjoys working with people, takes pride in high standards, and is inspired by the idea of helping visitors connect with Quarry Bank's powerful industrial heritage, we'd love to hear from you. Internally you'll be known as Technical Demonstrator Manager.

### About Quarry Bank

Quarry Bank is one of the most significant early industrial heritage sites in the world. Here, history isn't just displayed, it's alive. Our technical floors are central to this, with original textile machinery in operation and a team dedicated to demonstrating traditional skills to thousands of visitors each year.

You'll join a friendly and collaborative property team who take pride in welcoming everyone, caring for this remarkable site, and helping visitors feel a real connection to the past. We value curiosity, creativity and teamwork, and you'll be supported by colleagues from Visitor Experience, Facilities, Conservation and beyond. Volunteers play an important part in our work, and you'll enjoy helping them grow their skills and confidence.

Working here means embracing variety, problem solving, and contributing to a positive, inclusive workplace, all while helping to protect the unique "Spirit of Place" that Quarry Bank is known for.

[Apply here](#)





# Opportunities

## American University of Rome | Summer Courses on Cultural Heritage Crime and Protection

July 13-17

**Cost:** €1,495



The American University of Rome is offering two courses in Rome in July 2026 on the illicit trafficking of antiquities in the MENA region and on cultural heritage protection. No prior knowledge of the subject matter is assumed. The courses are designed to appeal to professionals, aspiring professionals and those with an interest in museums, cultural heritage, archaeology, law enforcement, art/culture management, heritage tourism and security.

### **Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Antiquities in the Middle East and North Africa. Rome, Italy, July 6-10, 2026. Instructor Dr Samer Abdel Ghafour**

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the complex problem of antiquities trafficking, examining the motives and operations of looters, traffickers, and dealers focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. Participants will gain insight into how stolen artefacts are laundered through illicit supply chains before appearing in prestigious galleries and museums worldwide. By understanding these processes, participants will be better equipped to recognise and combat art and heritage crimes.

### **Protecting Cultural Heritage: Risks, Threats, Responses. Rome, Italy, July 13-17, 2026. Instructor Professor Valerie Higgins**

The course examines the factors that present risks, threats and/or security issues for cultural heritage in the 21st century. These include overtourism, museum security, conflict, climate change, changing societal expectations and new historical narratives.

Each day will explore a new theme making use of contemporary examples and including some outside speakers. Participants will gain insight into underlying trends affecting cultural heritage, the different manifestations of these issues on the ground, and potential strategies to resolve or mitigate the risk.

[Apply here](#)





# Opportunities

University of Liverpool |  
MA Sustainable Heritage Management



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

September 11

**Funding:** Scholarships and bursaries available

## About the course

If you are still considering your next steps after graduation, I would like to share a postgraduate opportunity that may be of interest to you. The Liverpool School of Architecture offers a Master's programme in Sustainable Heritage Management, fully recognised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), the UK's leading professional body for building conservation and the historic environment. The programme also aligns with the educational frameworks of ICOMOS, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe.

This interdisciplinary Master's is suitable for graduates from a wide range of Arts, Design, and Built Environment disciplines, including (but not limited to) Architecture, Archaeology, History, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design, Fine Art, Civil or Structural Engineering, Project Management, Quantity Surveying, and Philosophy.

If you have an interest in heritage, conservation, and the management of historic environments, this programme could be a strong next step academically and professionally.

## Funding schemes

[Aziz Foundation Scholarships](#) (University of Liverpool Widening Participation and Outreach Strategy): applications must be submitted via the portal on the Aziz Foundation website.

[Barakat International Studentship](#)

[Apply here](#)





## 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)

## **Cambridge Heritage Research Centre Bulletin**

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