



# BULLETIN

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre  
26 January 2021

## In this Issue

News	1
Cover Story	2
Article	3
Events	5
Opportunities	9
About Us	10

## CHRC News

### Professor Laurajane Smith to give 4th Annual Heritage Lecture.

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre's Annual Heritage Lecture will take place on Thursday 25 February at 7pm (GMT) via Zoom. This year's speaker will be Professor Laurajane Smith, Head of the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies at the Australian National University, who will give a talk on 'The Emotional Politics of Heritage'.

The CHRC Annual Heritage Lecture is a free, public event and you can find more information and register on the CHRC website:

<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/annual-lectures>

## COVER STORY

### "... more than a pride we inherit"

At the end of a troubled and emotional fortnight for our friends and colleagues in Washington and the whole of the USA the poem, "The Hill we Climb" by Amanda Gorman, stood out as beacon of hope and a call for healing. CHRC's Dr Dacia Viejo Rose offers some reflections on the content of the poem and some of the ways it resonates with the work of Heritage Studies.

*More on page 2*

*Image: The Capitol Building in Washington D.C.  
© Trish Biers*

# COVER STORY

## “...more than a pride we inherit”

Of the many highlights of the Presidential inauguration of Joseph R. Biden on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, one that shone particularly brightly was Amanda Gorman’s poem “The Hill we Climb”. At the heart of the poem was a call for a country whose fissures have widened to seemingly unfathomably wide chasms in recent years to face its legacies of violence and celebrate its accomplishments side by side with a shared forward momentum driven by hope and an aspiration for reconciliation. It is not surprising therefore that Gorman’s poem resonates deeply with the work of Heritage Studies. In her framing of what it means to be from a country she captures many debates in the field today about identity and the role of the past in its formulation:

“[...] more than a pride  
we inherit,  
it’s the past we step into  
and how we repair it”

She does this too in her lines worrying over our responsibilities towards future generations:

“[...] our inaction and inertia  
will be the inheritance of the next generation.  
Our blunders become their burdens.”

Into her poem Gorman also managed the feat, possibly unintentional, of weaving in strands of the half-dozen presidential inauguration poems that came before\* while marking hers out as distinctly different for the assertiveness of her vision of the ways forward. With an astonishing clarity she transforms grief into growth and hurt into hope turning the tables on disaster in the process:

“So while once we asked,  
how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?  
Now we assert,  
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?”

“The Hill we Climb” references heritage in many ways, not least in echoing Woody Guthrie’s *This Land* in such a way that it is transformed into a call to action. Gorman does not take a shared land for granted but demands that the continuous project of its construction be taken on as a collaborative project. As we listened to Amanda Gorman, from our separate shelters in this pandemic of isolation, with bated breath and an intense desire to hope again, we saw heritage in the making.



\* Richard Blanco – “One Today” (Obama’s inauguration 2013), Elizabeth Alexander – Praise Song for the Day” (Obama’s inauguration 2009), Miller Williams – “Of History and Hope” (Clinton inauguration 1997), Maya Angelou – “On the Pulse of Morning” (Clinton inauguration 1993), Robert Frost – “The Gift Outright” (J.F.Kennedy inauguration 1961).

**Dacia Viejo Rose** is Deputy Director of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre and Senior Lecturer in Heritage Studies in the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

# ARTICLE

## New laws on the protection of statues and monuments

An emotive and contested debate, that of the future of the UK's public monuments, was reignited this week by the announcement of new laws by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, and the language used in setting out the government's intentions. In an article published in *The Telegraph* on 16 January under the title *We will save Britain's statues from the woke militants who want to censor our past*<sup>1</sup>, Jenrick outlined his case for the need for new laws to protect statues in England from removal by councils without prior planning permission. The manner in which he did so has drawn much attention (and criticism) and displays the ways that emotive language and associations are frequently used within discussions around heritage preservation; the result often the polarisation of positions around preservation or removal on each side of the debate.

In the article Robert Jenrick positions the new laws within a 'tradition' of legislations, drawing a direct line from the Town & Country Planning Act 1947 and the Civic Amenities Act 1967 to the present. Legislation that has been key tools in the protection of the historic environment, and in the latter case the introduction of the concept of conservation areas. Jenrick emphasises that many of the statues and monuments under discussion were originally paid for by public subscription or by local businesses. A historical truth he chooses to juxtapose against those monuments erected "by government diktat like in the Soviet Union"<sup>2</sup>. He suggests that village or parish funding points to these monuments representing "not a single, official narrative" but "the people's preferences at the time" and so implies a 'peoples' heritage', reflected in the claim that under new laws "decisions to remove these heritage assets will require planning permission and... consultation with the local community". Closer reading of the government's press release of 17 January, however, confirms that "if the council intends to grant permission for removal of a particular statue and Historic England objects, the Communities Secretary will be notified so he can make the final decision about the application in question"<sup>3</sup>, placing a final veto with ministers. Interestingly in 2020, following the removal of the Edward Colston statue in Bristol,

Historic England issued a statement on their website in which they said:

"Whilst we do not condone the unauthorised removal of a listed structure, we recognise and understand the emotion and the hurt that public historical commemoration can generate and we encourage Bristol City Council to engage in a city wide conversation about the future of the statue. We are here to offer guidance and support but believe the decision is best made at a local level - we do not believe it must be reinstated."<sup>4</sup>

With the government estimating that the "new laws will protect 20,000 statues and monuments throughout England for future generations" and the protection extending to unlisted historic plaques, memorials or monuments, should it pass, the new legislation may place additional financial pressures Council and Historic England budgets. Potentially also preventing the future temporary removal of statues in the face of threats of public vandalism.

The passage of the article that has drawn most attention has been the use of the phrase of "the baying mob" to describe those who have called for the removal of statues, and in the case of the statue of Edward Colston, toppling it last June following years of campaigning for its removal. In stating "What has stood for generations should be considered thoughtfully, not removed on a whim or at the behest of a baying mob", Jenrick dismisses or ignores numerous movements and campaigns, given impetus by the 'Rhodes Must Fall' movement at the University of Cape in 2015 but many with a much longer histories, and dehumanises those on the opposing side of the debate with the use of the term 'baying', etymologically associated with dogs or wolves. Equally the uses of martial terminology such as "*militants*", "*bulwark*" and "*purge*" throughout the article seems to deliberately present an inevitably conflictual scenario. One which Halima Begum, director of the Runnymede Trust, considers to reflect a "contrived culture war"<sup>5</sup> by the Communities Secretary; a sentiment similarly echoed in comments by Sharon Heal, director the Museums Association.

While the heritage sector and heritage professionals



# ARTICLE

## New laws on the protection of statues and monuments

should perhaps take optimism from such vocal support for the importance of our historic towns and heritage assets from the Communities Secretary and Culture Secretary in the government press release, it would be understandable if this was accompanied by concern. Concerns that while a stated “retain and explain” policy may fit with much needed contextualisation and inclusive narratives advocated by many in the heritage sector for so long, it will remain to be seen if and how councils and site and property owners are to be supported to properly deliver this policy, and whether the language used by Jenrick to make the case may prove more divisive than inclusive. The article includes a quote from the late Sir Roger Scruton that “good things are easily destroyed, but not easily created”. Following these developments the government must now deliver on the claims that in “retaining and explaining” civic symbols of the UK’s history of slavery and racism they can “educate, inform and unite people”. A future undoubtedly desirable but one the government may find ‘not easily created’.

*During the summer of 2020 the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre carried out a project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Impact Fund, the Vice Chancellor’s Office and the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research to record the debates around how Britain represents its past through its public statues. The project team conducted interviews with key individuals involved in the debates over the future of public statues with links to slavery, gathered social media responses from YouTube, Reddit and Twitter, and generated a systematic record of the coverage in four mainstream newspapers over the period from June to September 2020. This archive is available as an open access database from the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre website:*

<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/research-projects/uk-statues-project/Database>.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/01/16/will-save-britains-statues-woke-militants-want-censor-past/>
- <sup>2</sup> This despite the fact that the vast majority of the most controversial monuments commemorating individuals involved in the slave trade date to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and so were generally contemporary with the Russian Empire and erected many years before the Soviet Union.
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-protection-for-england-s-heritage>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/edward-colston-statue/>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jan/17/robert-jenrick-statues-must-be-protected-from-baying-mob>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/uk-government-says-it-will-protect-historic-monuments>

**Ben Davenport** is the Centre Coordinator at the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

# EVENTS



## 2021 Annual Heritage Lecture

*hosted by the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre*



## The Emotional Politics of Heritage

**Professor Laurajane Smith**

*Head of the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies  
Australian National University*

**7:00pm (GMT), Thursday 25 February 2021**

The event will be held on Zoom and registration for the event is required  
For more information visit: [www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/annual-lectures](http://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/annual-lectures)

To register visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y4xjagb8>



# EVENTS



Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

## Lent 2021 Term Card

### Thursdays 1-2pm

Seminars will be hosted on Zoom. Use the link below to visit the CHRC events page and register for a seminar:

<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/hrg-seminars>

- 4 February: **Cornelius Holtorf** (*Linnæus University*)  
The Future in Heritage Studies and its Future
- 11 February: **Rebecca Haboucha** (*University of Cambridge*)  
Addressing threats to Indigenous Heritage in the Anthropocene:  
Examples from subarctic Canada and the Chilean Atacama Desert
- 18 February: **Danika Parikh** (*University of Cambridge Museums*)  
The RePresent Project: Community Curation and Colonial  
Museum Collections
- 4 March: **Siobhan Kattago** (*University of Tartu*)  
Being and not Being There: Holocaust Memorials, Selfies and  
Social Media
- 11 March: **Andreas Pantazatos** (*University of Cambridge*)  
Taxonomies of Difficult Heritage





# EVENTS



## Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

### The Future in Heritage Studies and its Future

In this talk Professor Holtorf will review the significance of the future in heritage studies. The future is part of the very idea of heritage conservation, from local collections to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, but also a common rhetorical trope of heritage management. References to the future may legitimate existing power structures or they may liberate current practice from presentism. To date, the anticipated needs and benefits of heritage for specific future generations have very rarely been explicitly addressed or critically discussed. I argue that as heritage is increasingly linked to the Agenda 2030, the significance of the future in heritage studies is set to increase, and a thorough critical engagement with this notion and its meaning is urgently needed. I will briefly summarise the work on Heritage Futures I have been involved in over the past decade, presently in the context of a UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures.

Image Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverside,\\_Iowa#/media/File:Future\\_Birthplace\\_of\\_Captain\\_James\\_T\\_Kirk.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverside,_Iowa#/media/File:Future_Birthplace_of_Captain_James_T_Kirk.jpg) CC BY-SA 2.0

Cornelius Holtorf is Professor of Archaeology and the UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures at Linnaeus University, Sweden.

#### **Prof Cornelius Holtorf**

*Professor of Archaeology & UNESCO Chair on Heritage Futures  
Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnæus University*

**Thursday 4 February 2021, 1pm**

To receive a link to this event please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y67v9672>



# EVENTS

## HERITAGE + COLONIALISM DISCUSSION GROUP

### Schedule of Events 2021

All sessions will take place at 2pm

**26 Jan | Edward Moon-Little**

*Chief, Priest, Soldier, King: Heritage to Aid Decolonisation*

**20 Apr | Rebecca Haboucha**

*A Decolonised Heritage of the Anthropocene: A comparative case of Indigenous peoples in Canada and Chile*

**9 Feb | Allegra Ayida**

*Nigerian heritage, memorialisation, and the legacies of colonialism: The Case of a Itsekiri Chief*

**4 May | Gitte Westergaard**

*Decolonising Animal Remains in Natural History Museums*

**23 Feb | Alexandra McKeever**

*The limitations of decolonization? Theoretical frameworks for the legacies of slavery in the United States*

**18 May | Tom Crowley**

*Heritage and the Legacy of an Imperial Frontier: The Case of the Kalasha*

**9 Mar | Emily Deal**

*Colonialism at Home: Private collectors and colonial legacies in the English country house*

**25 May | Mariana PL Pereira & Alisa Santikarn**

*Colonialism, Identity, and Heritage in Macau and Thailand*

**23 Mar | Flaminia Bartolini**

*TBC: Fascist Colonialism and Postcolonialism in Italy*

Session links will be shared by email and posted on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/HCDGCambridge): [facebook.com/HCDGCambridge](https://www.facebook.com/HCDGCambridge).

**6 Apr | Sarthak Malhotra**

*Living with the Taj Mahal: The politics and poetics of heritage in contemporary India*

If you would like to join our mailing list, please email Mariana: [mp850@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mp850@cam.ac.uk)





# OPPORTUNITIES

## Assistant Professor in Museum and Heritage

**Department of Archaeology  
Durham University**

**Closing Date: 26 March 2021**

**Interview date: w/c Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
2021**

**Permanent / Full-Time  
£33,797 - £49,553 per annum**

The Department of Archaeology at Durham University seeks to appoint a talented individual to the role of Assistant Professor in Museums and Heritage. We welcome applications from those with teaching and research interests in the broad field of museums and heritage. Some of our practitioner research projects apply our expertise in helping to tackle some of the 'Global Challenges' facing the world's heritage, such as ethics in collecting and displaying heritage and collections, social inequalities, and protecting the integrity of heritage in conflict and disaster zones. We maintain partnerships around the world with museums and heritage agencies, including the Palace Museum (Beijing) and the National Museum of Japanese History (Sakura), and UNESCO. We expect the post-holder to bring complementary practitioner expertise, and help sustain and extend these international connections and we are particularly eager to hear from applicants with experience of working with museum collections and heritage and stakeholders relating to East Asia and/or Southeast Asia.

The post offers an exciting opportunity to make a contribution to the development of the Department of Archaeology's teaching and curriculum, and to our research, while allowing unrivalled opportunities to progress and embed your career in an exciting and progressive institution. The new Assistant Professor in Museums and Heritage will compliment and expand our existing expertise: thematically and geographically. Our core museums and heritage teaching team comprises Dr. Mary Brooks, Dr. Emily Williams, Prof. Robin Coningham,

Dr. Ben Roberts and Prof. Robin Skeates, although many other staff in the Department of Archaeology have related interests, and we also work closely with professional staff in the University Library and Collections. Our teaching in museums and heritage broadly covers: museum theory and practice with an emphasis on collections management, the conservation of archaeological and museum objects, and international cultural heritage management. These areas comprise the focus for our three distinctive professional-training Masters programmes, the largest of which is the MA in Museum and Artefact Studies. The post-holder will be expected to contribute to, convene and develop taught modules focussed on museums and heritage, especially at Master's level and supervise dissertations. In this, it will be appropriate to make use of Durham University's world-class museum collections and World Heritage Site, in collaboration with their professional staff. We seek applicants with a strong practitioner track-record in museum and heritage work and established experience of working with international stakeholders. We are seeking to expand our programmes, and the post-holder will be instrumental to international recruitment initiatives particularly in Asia and North America and will play a key role in helping to develop proposals for a new Distance Learning programme in heritage and museum studies.

### **For More Information**

[https://durham.taleo.net/careersection/du\\_ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=21000108&tz=GMT%2B00%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FLondon](https://durham.taleo.net/careersection/du_ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=21000108&tz=GMT%2B00%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FLondon)

### **Contact Information**

#### **Department contacts for enquiries:**

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Dr Mary Brooks  
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# 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](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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