

12th Annual AHM Conference

**UNSETTLING HERITAGE
&
MEMORY FUTURES**

**DECOLONIAL TRAJECTORIES
BETWEEN CRISIS & POSSIBILITY**

17 - 19 JUNE 2026
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

17 JUNE WEDNESDAY
DAY 1

9:00 - 9:30

University Theatre

Conference Registration

9:30 - 10:00

University Theatre

Opening Remarks by the Organising Committee

Prof. Dr. Sven Dupré, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dr. Ihab Saloul, AHM Director

Dr. Nour Munawar, Organising Committee

10:00 - 11:30

**Session 1: Where is Home? People, Places, & the Restitution of
Colonial Era Plunder (1)**

University Library, Spinozaaal

Chair: Camilla Orjuela

Xi "Títílàyò" Jin, University of Wisconsin-Madison: *Contrapuntal Objects: Rethinking Restitution and the Question of Home*

Staffan Lundén, University of Gothenburg: *"It Was as If I Had Brought Benin With Me Here": On the Benin Bronzes, Belonging, and Home*

Annika Vosseler and Michael La Corte, University of Tübingen: *Where Does a Taonga Go "Home" To? Restitution, Relationality, and Indigenous Belonging in the Case of Hinematioro's Pou*

Ayman Ibrahim Ali, Africa Institute: *Rethinking Home Through Untranslatability in Restitution Debates*

10:00 - 11:30

Session 2: Negotiating Identity in Contemporary Peru

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Aldo Accinelli Obando

Claudia Uribe-Chinen, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú: *Commitment and Constraint: The Fragility of Heritage Ethics amid Coloniality and Peru's Institutional Crisis*

Katherine A. Román Aquino, Independent researcher: *Peru's Virtual Museums: What Do They Narrate?*

Javier Lizarzaburu, Independent researcher: *Urban Landscapes and the Politics of Memory: The Case of Lima*

Aldo Accinelli Obando, University of Amsterdam: *Upper-Class Households and Their Colonial Legacies: How Affluent Domestic Materiality Perpetuates Coloniality in Lima, Peru*

Session 3: Decolonial Opera

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Krisztina Lajosi

Marte Bernaerts and Krisztina Lajosi, University of Amsterdam: *Opera's Heritagisation: Authority, Participation, and the Remaking of Communities*

Marcus Tebogo Desando: *Contemporary Creative Disruption in South African Opera*

Nicholas Till, University of Amsterdam: *ORPHEUS CONQUISTADOR*

Emilio Aguilar, Independent researcher: *Operatic Classification: Fach and the Internalisation of Bodily Management*

Xiaoke Zhang, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: *Opera as Living Heritage: The Internal Decolonisation within China through The White-Haired Girl*

11:30 - 12:00

University Theatre

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30

Session 4: Reparation, Return, and Cultural Institutions

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Tessel Bauduin

Bruno Luberti, University of Amsterdam: *Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: Navigating the Political Terrain of Memory in Georgian Social Media and Museums*

Gabriele Gattiglia, M.E. Ambrosiano, F. Anichini, S. Basile, F. D'Antoni, C. Giovannetti, and M. Puntin, University of Pisa: *ACAMPADA: Archaeology of the Present as Decolonial Praxis*

Jan Hüsgen, German Lost Art Foundation: *Who Governs Collaboration? Funding Regimes and the Limits of Decolonial Provenance Research*

12:00 - 13:30

Session 5: Ritual and World-Making

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Dawid Grabowski

Rolanda J.W. Spencer, Morehouse College: *Beyond Folklore: Ritual Governance, Counter-Archives, and the Ontological Reordering of Heritage in the Black Atlantic*

Daisy Corbin O'Grady, University of Amsterdam: *'Working Out Complicated Futures Together': Ecosomatic Practice as Epistemological Strategy*

Charlie Zhangluyuan Yang, University of Coimbra: *Decolonising Socialist Heritage: Workers' Memory and the Politics of Heritage-Making in China's Ongoing Post-Socialism*

13:30 - 14:30

University Theatre

Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00

Session 6: Cities and Post-Conflict

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Corina L. Apostol

Mehmet Tayfur, National School of Architecture of Strasbourg: *Rebuilt from Above, for Whom? Heritage, Memory and the Remaking of the Urban Fabric in a Post-Conflict City*

Mirjam Hoijtink, University of Amsterdam: *Dutch Colonial Footprints of Indonesia: the Case of Budapest*

Lama Said, University of Edinburgh: *Waqf, Coloniality, and the Remaking of Urban Conservation in Historic Cairo*

Session 7: Counter-Narratives and Conflict

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: David Duindam

Anat Kraslavsky, Humboldt University of Berlin: *"Kufiyahs in Buchenwald": Necrosecuritization, Staatsräson and Holocaust Memory as Governance Technology in Contemporary Germany*

Giorgio Di Liberto, University of Bergamo: *Difficult Heritage from Below: Russian Speakers' Narratives of De-Russification in the Riga Region*

Rishika Mukhopadhyay, University of Southampton, **David Harvey**, Aarhus University, **and Ali Mozaffari**, University of Melbourne: *Rhetorical Decolonial Deployments in the Diaspora: Articulations of Hindu Nationalism within the UK-based Indian Diaspora*

14:30 - 16:00

Session 8: Archives and Digitality

University Theatre, Chirurgisch Theater

Chair: Charles Jeurgens

Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera, Chicago Theological Seminary, and **Mamarame Seck**, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, *Reading the Silence: Archival Violence, Contested Memory, and the Reclamation of Omar ibn Said*

Maria Murad, University of Oxford: *Forgetting and Remembering the Colonial Administrative Services Course at the University of Oxford*

16:00 - 16:15

University Theatre

Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:45

University Theatre

KEYNOTE PANEL

Decoloniality in Palestine: Law and Narrative Sovereignty

Prof. Alette Smeulers, University of Groningen

Prof. Mitri Raheb, Dar al-Kalima University

Dr. Marieke de Hoon, University of Amsterdam

Moderator: Dr. Nawal Mustafa

18:00 - 20:00

BG2 Cafe

Conference Dinner

18 JUNE THURSDAY
DAY 2

9:00 - 9:30

University Theatre

Conference Registration

9:30 - 11:00

Session 9: Emerging Solidarities, New Directions

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Tamara van Kessel

Amany Abd El Hameed, Helwan University **and Robert Vigar**, University of Pennsylvania: *Keepers of the Ground: The Abu Omar Family and the Decolonial Politics of Archaeological Labour at Abydos*

Lyn Le, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: *Policing the Áo Dài: National Dress and Gendered Authenticity in Vietnam*

Lucas da Costa Maciel, Leiden University and Technische Universität Berlin: *Refusing Disconnection: Decolonial Futures and Languages of Repair within the Museum Practices*

Session 10: Space and Infrastructures

University Library, Spinozazaal

Chair: David Duindam

Alana Castro de Azevedo, CegeSoma/State Archives of Belgium: *Can the State Decolonise Public Space? Non-Performative Policies and the Politics of Decolonisation in Ostend*

David Duindam, University of Amsterdam: *Cultivating the Sky: Colonial Radio Infrastructures, Thermal Media, and Decolonial Space Heritage*

Julian Postulart, Netherlands Defence Academy: *The Ecology of Heritage Violence: A Decolonial View of Cultural Dispossession*

Session 11: Colonial Legacies

University Theatre, Room 101A

Chair: Ana Serrano

Gavin Herbertson, SWPS University: *What is "Colonialism"?: Omani Zanzibar, Portuguese West Africa, and the Politics of Historiographic Classification*

Dario Fernandez Graziano, Universitat Pompeu Fabra: *Beyond the 'Moro' and the 'Mercenary': Decolonial Re-readings of the Army of Africa*

Yoke-Sum Wong, Alberta University of the Arts: *Insurgent Materialities: Papan and the Spectres of The Malayan Emergency (1948 - 1960)*

11:00 - 11:30

University Theatre

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00

Session 12: The Politics of the Collections

University Theatre, Room 101A

Chair: Gregor Langfeld

Maxim Smets, KU Leuven: *On the Restitution of African Belongings in International Law: Colonial-Era Takings and the Myth of Legality*

Lena Steffens, Freie Universität Berlin: *The Mapuche Collections at the Ethnological Museum Berlin and their Interpretations in the Present: A Collaborative Project to (Re)connect with the Memory and History of the Mapuche*

Yulia Tikhomirova, Sapienza University of Rome: *Decolonising Heritage through XR: Achievements, Limits, and Custodial Authority*

Session 13: Diasporic Memories

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Asli Özgen-Havekotte

Line Dalile, University of Antwerp: *Decolonial Approaches to Heritage: the Case of Researching Diasporic Heritage with Syrian Women in Antwerp*

Merve Kayikci, Radboud University: *The Trust Paradox: Bidirectional Mistrust Between Muslim Diaspora Communities and Heritage Institutions in Flanders*

Elvira Aguilera García, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona: *Material Heritage in Palestinian Diasporic Fiction: Homes, Objects, and the Afterlives of Dispossession in Enter Ghost*

Session 14: Colonial Museums

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Francesco Chiaravalloti

Leen Van Laere, Leiden University: *Reclaiming the Silenced: Afro-Belgian Counter-Memory and the Seven Congolese Graves in Tervuren*

Maria Suarez Caicedo, University of Amsterdam: *Beyond Colonial Temporality: Contemporary Art as a Decolonial Practice in Southern Colombia*

Sofia Karliner and Marlowe McCaffrey, University of Oxford: *'Specimen and/or Artefact?': Unsettling Nature/Culture Distinctions in Oxford's Museums'*

13:00 - 14:00

University Theatre

Lunch Break

19 JUNE

FRIDAY
DAY 3

9:30 - 10:00

University Theatre

Conference Registration

10:00 - 11:30

Session 17: Where is Home? People, Places and the Restitution of Colonial Era-Plunder (3)

University Theatre, Room 101

Chair: Staffan Lundén

Fisseha Fantahun Tefera, University of Gothenburg: *Heritage, Memory, and Identity: The Ethiopian Diaspora in the UK and the Politics of Restitution*

Ahmed Laala Loaar, Global Studies University: *Negotiating Identity Across Space: The Material and Textual Circulation of Princess Salma bint Said's Belongings*

Elke Selter, SOAS, University of London: *The Challenges of Returning Spiritually Important Objects*

Camilla Orjuela, University of Gothenburg: *South Asia's Displaced Heritage Objects and the Question of Home*

Session 18: Keywords for Restitution of Colonial Archives: Creator, Owner, Voice, Provenance

University Theatre, Spinozazaal

Chair: Emily Clark

Michael Karabinos, University of Amsterdam: *Power and Creation in Colonial Archives*

Emily Clark, University of Amsterdam: *Voice and Personhood in Colonial Sound Archives*

Jamila J. Ghaddar, University of Amsterdam: *Palestine as Provenance: Archiving in Place from The Vienna Convention (1983) to The Tandanya Declaration (2019)*

10:00 - 11:30

Session 19: Heritage Beyond Heritage Roundtable

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Chiara De Cesari

Participants: Tessel M. Bauduin, Chiara De Cesari, Jamila J. Ghaddar, Guno Jones, Nawal Mustafa, and Mikki Stelder, University of Amsterdam

11:30 - 12:00

University Theatre

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30

Session 20: Iraq and Cyprus

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: James Symonds

Madison Leeson, Turaath Tech: *From Imperial Protection to War-Time Governance: Decolonial Legacies and Contested Heritage in Modern Iraq*

Nafia Akdeniz, Eastern Mediterranean University: *'We Are Not Ghosts': Ethnographic Poetry as Transformative Memory Praxis*

Session 21: Praxis and Institutions

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Christian Olesen

Ruben Smit, University of Amsterdam: *How do you now feel...? Discomfort, Blind Spots, and the Work of Decolonial Collaboration*

Charlotte Vekemans, Ghent University: *Destabilising Heritage Universality through Turāth*

12:00 - 13:30

**Session 22: Returning to Haifa:
Displacement, Memory and the Right of Return Roundtable**

University Library, Spinozazaal

Chairs: Domenico Salvatore Galluccio and Francesco De Nigris

Participants: Anna Mangiacapra, University of Amsterdam, **and Enya Dignam Mak**, University of Amsterdam

Discussant: Luís Calle y Bonaccorso, University of Amsterdam

13:30 - 14:30

University Theatre

Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:30

**Launch of the Palgrave Encyclopedia of Cultural Heritage
and Conflict**

University Theatre

Ihab Saloul, University of Amsterdam

Britt Baillie, Aarhus University

Ruth Lefevre, Palgrave Macmillan

Camille Davies, Palgrave Macmillan

15:30 - 16:00

University Theatre

Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr. James Symonds, Organising Committee

Prof. Dr. Ihab Saloul, AHM Director

Dr. Nour Munawar, Organising Committee

16:00 - 18:00

BG2 Cafe

Closing Drinks