



AHM Newsletter December 2024

Dear reader, welcome to the Newsletter of the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM). AHM fosters a dynamic, interdisciplinary and transnational research of heritage, memory studies and material culture. As a research school and doctoral program, AHM is committed to the analysis of the remnants and narratives of the past in the present, as well as of the remaking of pasts into heritage, memory and material culture. The school stimulates scholarly cooperation in an international setting and organizes PhD training, seminars and lecture series, reading groups, public debates as well as international workshops and conferences. Please take a look at [our website](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Archives and the Archivist as Narrative Agent?

16-17 January 2025

University Library, Potgieterzaal

The [DIGHT-Net](#) Amsterdam team invites you to participate in the workshop 'Archives and the Archivist as Narrative Agent?', hosted in Amsterdam on 16 and 17 January 2025. This workshop is dedicated to mapping research connections and fostering knowledge exchange on theoretical approaches and research methods in heritage and archival studies. The three-day programme includes lectures, discussions and visits to the Amsterdam City Archive and the Eye Filmmuseum. On January 16, the programme takes place at

Calls and Vacancies

Call for Papers: AHM Conference

Deadline: 15 March, 2025

On 2, 3 and 4 July 2025, AHM will organize the 11th annual conference, titled 'A Polyphony of Emotions: Thinking Affect in Heritage and Memory.' This conference aims to investigate how the past can be constituted as a battleground where emotions are designed, weaponized and manipulated

the University Library (Potgieterzaal) and on the January 17, the location for the workshop is BG2 (0.08). The full programme will be announced soon. To sign up, click [here](#). For more information, see the [website](#). Space is limited.

PhD Skills: Research Data Management

17 January, 09:30 - 16:00

Oudemanshuispoort

This introductory workshop for PhD researchers of the Faculty of Humanities centers around the data management plan (DMP): a digital document in which you describe what data you are going to collect during your research project, how you will store and manage the data during the project, and what will happen to the data after the project has finished. The best moment to take this course is during the first year of your PhD. The Amsterdam Institute for Humanities Research (AIHR) offers a range of skills development training for PhDs. For more information on the PhD Skills, see the [website](#).

Workshop: Nostalgia and Place

20-21 January

Zoom

On 20 and 21 January 2025, Nathália de Ávila (University of Cologne) and Em Walsh (University of Central Florida) are hosting an online Zoom workshop on nostalgia and place. The programme includes a discussion by AHM's Mario Panico on his latest book "Spaces for Nostalgia" (Palgrave Macmillan 2024). More information on this publication can be found below. For more information on this workshop, click [here](#). The registration link for this event can be found [here](#).

Seminar Series: Critical AI

22 January 2025, 17:30 - 19:00

Online

In January 2025, the Critical AI Studies Seminar Series, organized by Anna Schjøtt Hansen, Tobias Blanke, and Diewertje Luitse, continues. The Critical AI Seminar Series critically addresses

to advance political and ideological agendas or shape the mobilisation of communities. The organising committee encourages contributions relating to diverse historical and geographical contexts and invite proposals for special events such as panels, screenings, performances or other practical research events. To apply, send an abstract of the paper to be presented (max. 250 words) and an academic biography (max. 100 words) to ahmannualconference@gmail.com by **15 March 2025**. See the full Call for Papers [here](#).

PhD Position in Conservation Science Deadline: 1 January, 2025

AHM is looking to fill one PhD position as part of the research project "Black Magic - (Re)discovering the development and changes of black woollens quality standards in the 18th-century Leiden's stalmeesters sample books", led by principal investigators Prof. Maarten van Bommel and Dr. Ana Albano Serrano. As PhD candidate you will mainly focus on the material aspect of the woollens samples in the books. The deadline for applications is **1 January 2025**. Click [here](#) for the full vacancy and details on how to apply.

Artificial Intelligence from various perspectives - across different contexts of application and through different lenses of critique. The lecture on 22 January will be given by Lilly Irani and is titled 'Algorithms of Suspicion: Authentication and Distrust on Digital Labor Platforms.' Lilly Irani is an associate professor at the University of California, San Diego. Her research investigates the cultural politics of high-tech work practices with a focus on how actors produce "innovation" cultures. Register for this online lecture [here](#). For more information, see the [website](#).

Masterclass: The Dutch Method Unfolded

22 - 31 January, 2025

In January 2025, the UvA Conservation and Restoration Department will host a second edition of the masterclass The Dutch Method Unfolded, focusing on the wax-resin lining of paintings. The Getty Foundation is graciously supporting the project for a second time. The masterclass is a multidisciplinary program that aims to help professionals in the fields of art history and conservation to better understand the physical condition of wax-resin lined paintings. The support by the Getty Foundation includes funds for a publication on wax-resin lining, which will be a compilation of peer-reviewed research papers, edited by Emilie Froment, Ella Hendriks and Esther van Duijn. See the [website](#) for more information.

Workshop: NATURECULTURE LAB

27 - 29 January, 2025

HKB, Bern Academy of the Arts

This international workshop brings together, in a hybrid format, experts of conservation in two domains: on the one hand, art and cultural heritage conservation; and on the other hand, nature conservation. In both domains the "things", "items", "objects" or "sites" conservators and conservationists care for are increasingly recognized as natureculture hybrids. More information about this event and the full programme can be found [here](#).

News

A Mass Grave in Virtual Reality

The UvA has published an online article about AHM's Hayley Mickleburgh and her research on mass graves at a bodyfarm in Texas. There are tens of thousands mass graves in the world, and because of conflicts and human rights violations, this number is only increasing. Knowledge about how these bodies decompose is of great importance, for example as evidence for war crimes. Based on her research, Mickleburgh is developing a virtual mass grave in 3D, which can be used to train first responders in the excavation process. Mickleburgh is a teacher of the bachelor, master and research master in archaeology and director of the 4D Research Lab at the UvA. Read the full article (only available in Dutch) on the [UvA website](#).

Michiel Vermaat wins Rijksmuseum Migelien Gerritzen thesis prize 2024

Michiel Vermaat has won the Rijksmuseum Migelien Gerritzen thesis prize 2024 with his master's thesis entitled 'Seeing Beyond the Surface: Investigating Methods of Visualising Consolidants in Wood Borer-Damaged Wood.' Vermaat graduated from the MA program in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the University of Amsterdam, in the specialisation of furniture conservation. The jury unanimously chose Vermaat because of the innovative application of zinc oxide consolidants, the good design of the research and its potential for a wide range of materials and objects.

Anna Schjøtt Hansen receives Student Paper Award at the Association of Internet Research Conference

Anna Schjøtt Hansen, PhD candidate in Media Studies and AHM, is one of the two joint winners of this year's Student Paper Award at the Association of Internet Research Conference (AoIR). The co-authored paper with Yarden Skop (University of Siegen, Germany) is titled 'How Fact-Checkers are Becoming Machine Learners: A Case of Meta's Third Party Programme.' As determining factors for their choice, the committee highlights how the paper showcases rigorous

research with hard-to-reach populations, combining semi-structured interviews with fact-checkers and observational data from ethnographic enquiry and how it makes a unique and vital contribution to internet research, carries strong potential for wider social impact, and would certainly attract public interest in addition to that of the AoIR audience.

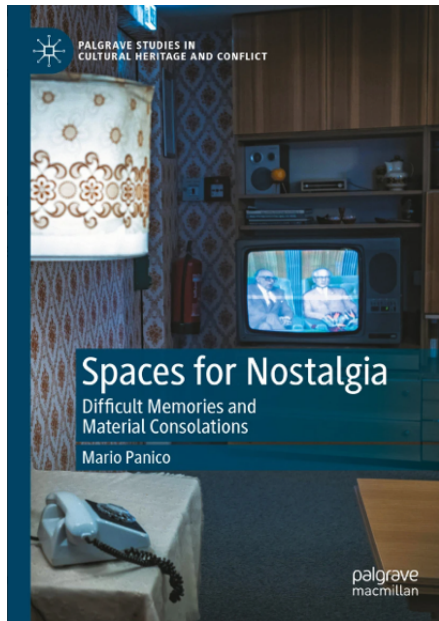
New Publications

Spaces for Nostalgia: Difficult Memories and Material

Consolations

Mario Panico, 2024.

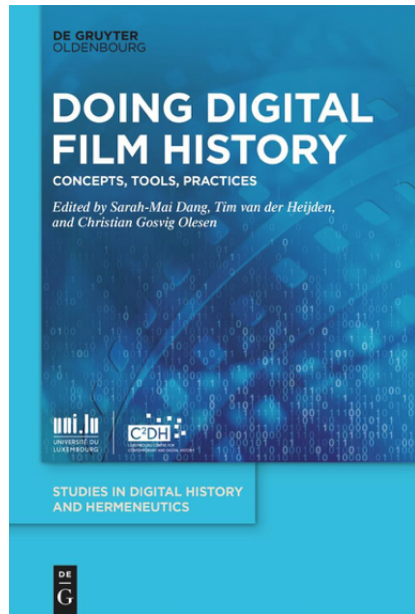
Studies of nostalgia have long illustrated the emotional dynamics which condition our desire to go back to a time and a space that belongs to the past. In this book, Mario Panico addresses this condition from an innovative perspective by over-exposing the spatial dimension of nostalgia. This unveils alternative and complementary ways of thinking through how this emotion is activated and how space can be recreated in the presence. The volume defines this re-creation as "spaces for nostalgia." Through vase studies relating to challenging nostalgias for troubled pasts in Western Europe, the book examines how the furnishing and use of space, the discourses that surround it, and the objects that become synecdoche of it provide a terrain where even unlikely or troubling forms of nostalgia can grow and blossom. This book was published by Palgrave as part of the book series 'Palgrave Studies in Cultural Heritage and Conflict'. For more information about the book and the possibility to download it, see the [website](#).



Doing Digital Film History: Concepts, Tools, Practices

Edited by Sarah-Mai Dang, Tim van der Heijden and Christian Gosvig Olesen, 2025.

How has the digital turn shaped the practices of film historical research and teaching? While computational approaches have been used by film historians since the 1960s and 1970s, the arrival and use of digital tools and methods in recent decades has fundamentally changed the ways we search, analyse, interpret, present, and so think and write about film history - from digital archival and curatorial practices, data-driven search, and analysis of film historical collections to the visualisation and dissemination of film historical materials online. While film historians have increasingly embraced the new possibilities brought by digital technologies, their practical, epistemological, and methodological implications need further exploration. By focusing on the concepts, tools, and practices of digital film historiography, this edited volume aims to contribute to a better understanding and critical reflection on the changes and continuities of doing film history in the digital age. This book was published in Open Access by De Gruyter Oldenbourg (2025) as part of the *Studies in Digital History and Hermeneutics* series. For more information and the possibility to download the book, see the [website](#).



New PhDs

Lucy Clift

Lucy Clift has joined AHM in October 2024 as a PhD Candidate under the supervision of Maartje Stols-Witlox and Joen Hermans. As part of Project Protrusion, Lucy's research will focus on the formation of lead soap protrusions in oil paintings, specifically how paint composition, environmental factors and conservation treatments affect protrusion formation, with an aim to reproduce this phenomenon in model systems on a reduced timescale.



Imogen Coulson

Imogen Coulson joined the AHM in October 2024 as a PhD student in the Media Studies Department. Her PhD is part of the NWO-funded [HAICu](#) project which investigates the application of Artificial

Intelligence methods to multimodal cultural heritage data. Within this broader project, Imogen's research focusses on polyvocality - the trend towards the inclusion of multiple perspectives in and around cultural heritage collections. The project seeks to understand what perspectives are present as well as those that are absent or silenced, and the relationships between these different perspectives and data sources. Prior to joining the AHM, she worked in the cultural heritage sector in the UK and Germany with a research focus on West African colonial collections in museums and archives, restitution and repatriation, and digital heritage. Since 2021, Imogen has worked for the [Digital Benin](#) project, and she continues to collaborate with colleagues in this project alongside her PhD.



Sebastiaan van Daalen

Sebastiaan van Daalen studied Ancient Studies and Latin culture at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and later completed a master's degree (*cum laude*) in Book Studies, focusing on medieval manuscripts, at the University of Amsterdam. His PhD project, *Authors and Anonymity: Patterns of Attribution in Medieval Latin Manuscripts (500–1200)*, which commenced in September 2024, delves into the patterns of author attribution within medieval Latin manuscripts. He analyses the texts as presented in the manuscripts, investigating all variations to uncover trends in attribution. The research also examines the relationships between attribution, transmission, and material features, concentrating on manuscripts from the sixth to twelfth centuries. For this project, he receives a stipend for one day a week from Stichting Art, Books and

Collections. The other day, he is funded by the KNAW Humanities Cluster, where he works three days a week as a front-end developer. In his leisure time, Sebastiaan likes to play video games, read, visit the gym, and walk in nature.



Past Events

AHM Community Day

On October 30, AHM's researchers, PhD candidates, MA students and other academic staff came together for the first Community Day of this academic year. The event proved to be an opportunity to get to know each other better, learn about the research being conducted in the school and discuss any pressing issues related to our work and the school. The programme included presentations by visiting scholars Prof. Trond Risto (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and Prof. Linda J. Mann (Columbia University, African American Redress Network) and finished with food and drinks. We appreciate all who presented and attended the event and look forward to seeing you during the next AHM Community Day!

MA Students Excursion to Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

In the second half of October, the second-year students of the MA Heritage and Memory Studies undertook the annual excursion. This year, they travelled to Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina together with Prof. Ihab Saloul and Dr. Mario Panico. The excursion is part of the program's course 'Current Issues: Excursion Abroad' and provides

the students with a practical intervention during which they acquire new skills that help them understand heritage in context. Throughout the 10-day excursion, the students visited several sites in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Srebrenica. Each student presented on a site relevant to their own research interests, leading to rich discussions on topics and issues related to the complex heritage and memory politics and dynamics of the region. An online zine, made by the students to reflect on the excursion, can be found [here](#).



The next AHM Newsletter will be published in February 2025. Contributions can be sent to ahm-fgw@uva.nl.



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Amsterdam School of Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

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For more up-to-date news and events, please check the AHM website.

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