



Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

AHM Newsletter October 2026

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

Presentation: Handlezingen: Over de betekenis van handen en gebaren in de premoderne beeldtaal (Readings of the Hand: On the Meaning of Hands and Gestures in Premodern Visual Culture)

6 October, 2026, 15:30-17:00

Location: Bushuis / Oost-Indisch Huis, F0.01

Do you have plans for Tuesday? To mark Dutch History Month, whose theme this year is Body & Mind, ACSEM is organising an event on 6 October focusing on hands in the visual language of the Middle Ages and the early modern period.

In three short lectures, researchers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds will demonstrate how we can interpret hands and gestures in the visual arts. One of the presentations will be given by PhD candidate Marissa Griffioen, affiliated with AHM. In her talk, *De wereld binnen handbereik: zintuiglijke interactie in de verbeelding*

Calls and Vacancies

**Call for Chapters / Articles:
Copying Maps
Deadline: 15 December, 2026**

The copying of cartographic data and products is perhaps one of the most common practices in the long history of cartography. Yet, surprisingly little systematic or in-depth critical attention has ever been paid to the significance of copying practices.

Johanna Skurnik (University of Turku) and Bram Vannieuwenhuyze are preparing an edited volume or special issue of a journal that focuses on the significance of cartographic

van kaarten (The World Within Reach: Sensory Interaction in the Representation of Maps), she will explore the depiction of cartographic objects in prints and paintings and show how these images shed light on the use and meaning of early modern maps.

Doors open at 3.00 p.m. The programme will be in Dutch.

For more information, see [here](#).

PhD Defense: Elisabeth Palacios Ramos

14 October, 2026, 13:00

Agnietenkapel

Elisabeth Palacios Ramos will defend the dissertation *Scholarly collecting of Ancient Peruvian textiles. The Influence on contemporary perceptions of Peruvian Identity and Heritage*.

Supervisors are Prof. I.A.M. Saloul and Prof. J. Symonds. The co-supervisor is Dr S. Stigter.

The methods of acquisition and the content of collections determined the boundaries within ancient Peruvian textiles would be treated and used. This research sought to understand how that process influenced today's scenario, regarding engaging heritage, identity construction, and contemporary perceptions.

The case studies included collections from the Museum für Völkerkunde Dresden, Wereld Museum Leiden, Wereld Museum Rotterdam, Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire Brussels, Musée d'Ethnographie du Trocadéro (Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac), Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Cambridge, and the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin. They are assessed through archives, virtual public museums databases, publications, and objects assessment.

copying practices. For more information, see [here](#).

Scholarly collecting of Ancient Peruvian textiles

The Influence on contemporary perceptions
of Peruvian Identity and Heritage



Elizabeth Patricia Palacios Ramos

PhD Defense: Lucy Gaynor

16 October, 2026, 11:00

Aula, Lutherse Kerk

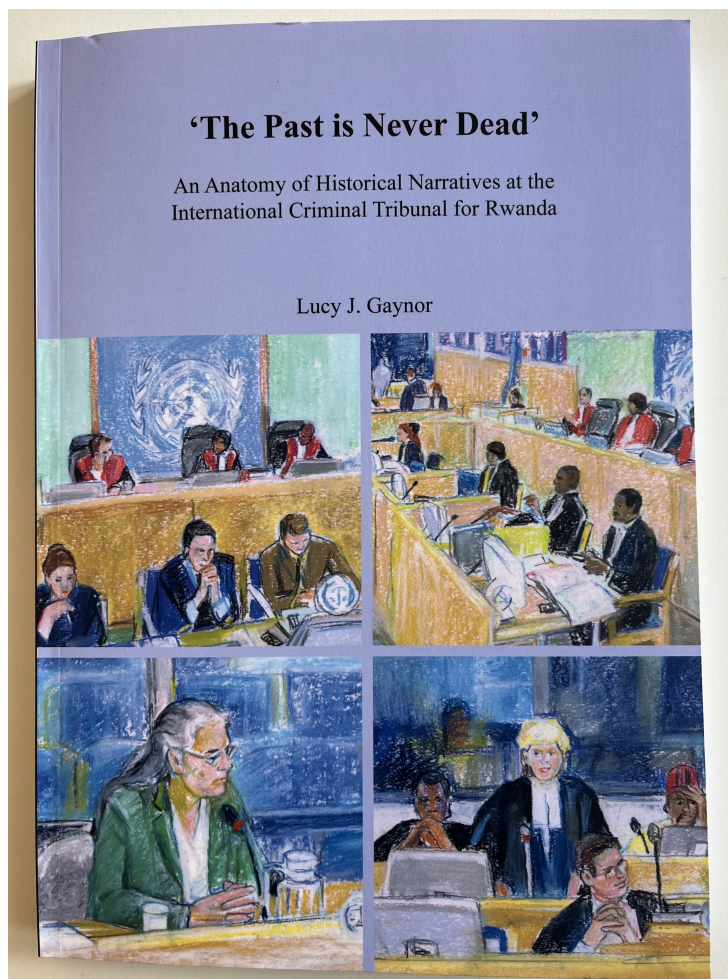
Lucy Gaynor will defend the dissertation '*The Past is Never Dead*'.

An Anatomy of Historical Narratives at the International Criminal

Tribunal for Rwanda. Supervisor is Prof. N.D. Adler. The co-

supervisor is Dr T.B. Bouwknegt. More information can be found

[here](#).



PhD Defense: Matthew Rana

23 October, 2026, 14:00

Aula, Lutherse Kerk

Matthew Rana will defend the dissertation *The Cinema of Bernadette Mayer*. Supervisor is Prof. C.M.K.E. Lerm-Hayes. The co-supervisor is Dr M. Cetinic.

The Cinema of Bernadette Mayer departs from the premise that the American poet Bernadette Mayer (1945–2022) was a filmmaker of sorts. This research project looks at four of the author's so-called "everything works" from the 1970s, each of which is structured by a specific duration: *Memory*, written during one month; *Studying Hunger*, based on notebooks she kept during a three-year psychoanalysis; *Midwinter Day*, an epic poem written over the course of one day (the shortest of the year); and *The Desire of Mothers to Please Others in Letters*, a series of unsent letters written during the nine months that Mayer was pregnant with her third child.

In these radically inclusive works, nearly everything enters the frame, from momentary shifts in attention to the author's daily childcare routines and discussions on psychoanalytic theory.

Equally inclusive is their formal range, which incorporates, among other things, traditional verse forms, epistolary address, found text, and running blocks of dense free-associative prose.

Considering Mayer's books from the period through the lens of psychoanalytic film theory, this research project contends that the problems these works pose surrounding time, inscription, and representability come to delineate a field of contestation over what must remain unsaid. Or, as Mayer herself put it, the wish "to leave all out to include all."

Matthew Rana is a poet and critic living in Stockholm.

AHM Research Community Day

6 November, 2026, 15:30-17:00

Location: tba

AHM is delighted to invite you to our next AHM Research Community Day on Friday 6 November 2026, 15.30-17.00. This year, the research community days will be centered around AHM's different research themes, to give you an opportunity to learn more about the width of research being done at AHM.

We start off with two themes: "Transnational Memory Narratives" and "Museums and Memorials". The first half of the session is dedicated to this theme, the second half will consist of short presentations by PhDs and postdocs, as in previous years.

The research community day is of course followed by drinks and snacks (17.00-19.00h; BG2 cafeteria)!

Any questions can be directed to Rian Lenting (h.a.lenting@uva.nl) or to the AHM email (ahm-fgw@uva.nl).

AHM Writing Session Series for PhDs

From October onwards, AHM launches its second year of writing sessions for PhDs (and interested postdocs and senior staff). The writing sessions consist of a 3-hour 'session', broken up into 3x50 minute writing slots followed by a 10 minute break.

The first series of sessions will take place in the afternoon, 14.00-17.00h, on the following dates:

14 October 2026	BG2, 0.12
26 October 2026	BG2, 0.12
12 November 2026	PCH, 2.14
24 November 2026	OMHP, E0.13
9 December 2026	OMHP, C2.05

Coffee and tea will be provided, but please bring your own mug.

Feel free to attend all or any sessions, depending on your availability, and to drop in and out if you cannot attend for the full 3 hours! Questions can be directed to Rian Lenting (h.a.lenting@uva.nl) or to the AHM email (ahm-fgw@uva.nl).



AHM News

Bram Vannieuwenhuyze receives Gilles Hondius grant

AHM staff member Prof. Bram Vannieuwenhuyze has received a grant from the [Gilles Hondius Foundation](#) to write a book on the cartographic work of the Hondius family of publishers from

Amsterdam, who were active in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

New Publications

“The world is finally watching Palestine. But who gets to narrate its story?”

Nour Manuwar, James Symonds and Ihab Saloul

On September 6, AHM staff members Nour Manuwar, James Symonds, and Ihab Saloul have published an opinion piece on the Middle East Eye. The publication is accessible [here](#).

"New Sensory Approaches to the Past: Applied Methods in Sensory Heritage and Archeology"

Edited by Pamela Jordan, Sara Mura, and Sue Hamilton

The volume [New Sensory Approaches to the Past](#), co-edited by AHM member Pamela Jordan, has been [shortlisted for the EAA Book Prize](#). The editors expect to have a book launch event in 2027 at the UvA.

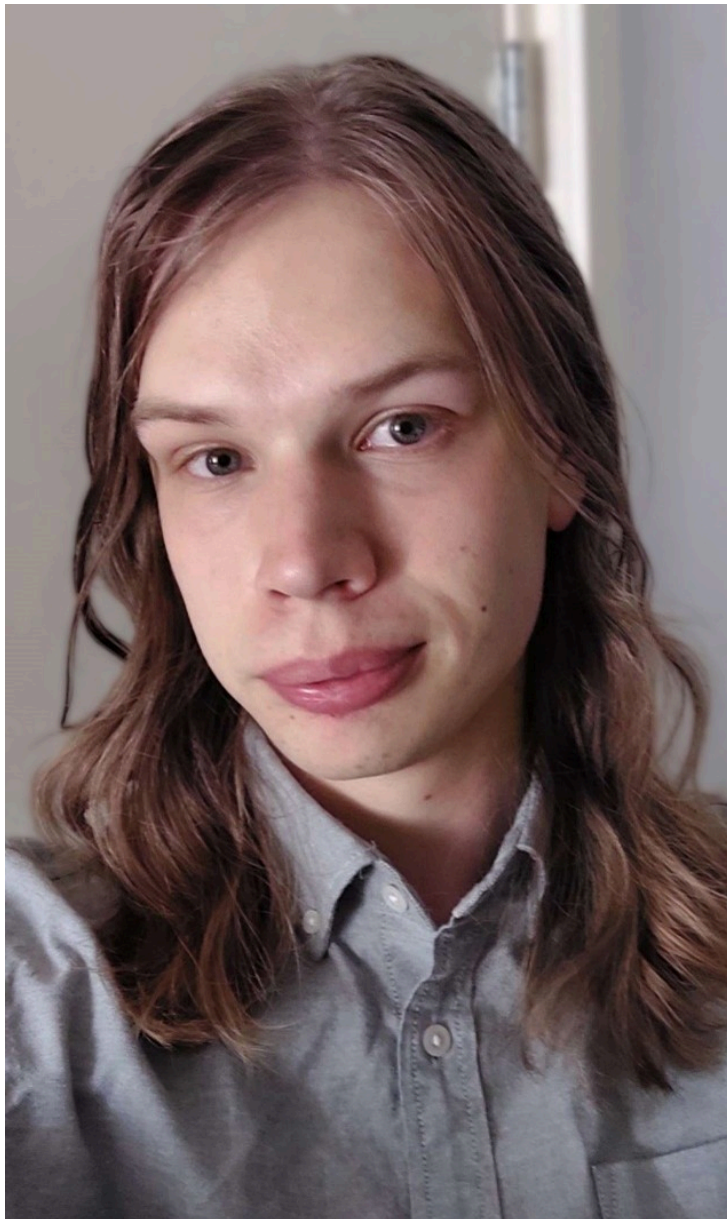
New AHM Staff members and PhDs

Floris Jan Bruggink

Floris Jan Bruggink joined AHM in September as a PhD researcher embedded in the Traumascape project. Under the supervision of Dr. Hayley Mickleburgh (University of Amsterdam) and Dr. Aris Politopoulos (Leiden University), Floris's research will explore the use of (interactive) storytelling in the context of contested and traumatic heritage through games and immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, across several global case studies. An important aspect in the research will be the co-design of these storytelling applications together with the affected communities.

Before starting his PhD, Floris completed a master's degree in Digital Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam and worked as a research technician at the 4D Research Lab, where he developed

virtual reality training applications for forensic researchers and archaeologists. His personal research interests and expertise lie in the use of 3D modelling as a tool in the study of building history, as well as the documentation and communication of uncertainty in the 3D research process.



Jelinka Daelemans

Jelinka Daelemans joined AHM in September 2026 as a PhD candidate within the EUARTHURS project, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Network.

Her research focuses on the materiality and reader guidance of Middle Dutch Arthurian manuscripts from the late thirteenth to the fifteenth century. In her project, she investigates how manuscripts

guide readers through features such as layout, decoration, paragraph marks, punctuation and the internal organisation of narrative texts.

By combining close textual analysis with the study of manuscript materiality and quantitative data, her research explores how the design and organisation of these manuscripts shaped the reception of Arthurian literature in the medieval Low Countries.

The project also compares Middle Dutch manuscripts with French and other neighbouring traditions, situating them within the broader European transmission of Arthurian stories.

Before joining the AHM, Jelinka studied Dutch and Latin Language and Literature at KU Leuven, where she completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees.



Mireille Linck

Mireille Linck joined AHM in September 2026 as an external PhD candidate under the supervision of Gregor Langfeld and Margriet Schavemaker.

Her research focuses on the reception history of the world-renowned Dutch printmaker Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972). Although his work is now internationally celebrated, his prints appear on countless T-shirts and mugs, and many filmmakers and game designers draw inspiration from his art, it took a relatively long time for him to gain acceptance within the art world. This research

examines the reasons behind this delayed recognition and explores how Escher's reputation evolved over time.

Mireille has worked for several art museums in the Netherlands, including the Rijksmuseum and Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, and combines this PhD research with her position as curator at museum Escher in The Palace in The Hague.



Dr. Rana Öztürk

Dr. Rana Öztürk has recently joined the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM) as a visiting researcher through the TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. She will spend the 2026–2027 academic year at UvA, hosted by Prof. Dr. Christa-Maria Lerm Hayes and Dr. Anja Novak.

During her research stay, she will conduct her project *Fluid Landscapes in Time-Based Media: Artistic Responses to*

Environmental Change in Turkey and the Netherlands. The project comparatively examines how contemporary artists from Turkey and the Netherlands engage with landscape through time-based media, focusing on local manifestations of global ecological crises and the ways in which art responds to environmental transformations. Her research in the Netherlands will include the study of Dutch artistic practices, visits to exhibitions and archives, and conversations with artists and other practitioners in the field. Bringing together art history and theory, cultural geography, visual culture, media studies, and the environmental humanities, the project also seeks to develop a model that brings art criticism into dialogue with curatorial practice.

Dr. Rana Öztürk is an art critic, curator, and scholar whose research lies at the intersection of contemporary art, visual culture, media theory, and exhibition and curatorial studies. She received her Ph.D. from the National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Dublin, in 2015, with the dissertation *Narratives of Global Modernity: International Contemporary Art Exhibitions as Places for Mapping Relational Geographies*. Her research interests include temporality and transtemporality, spatiality, transcultural relations and globalization in art, as well as scenography and spatial practices in exhibitions. Alongside her academic work, she has curated exhibitions and public programmes at institutions including Depo İstanbul, SALT Galata, Milli Reasürans Art Gallery, Sirius Arts Centre (Ireland), and Sinopale – International Sinop Biennial (Turkey). She is currently an Assistant Professor at İstinye University, Istanbul, and a member of AICA Turkey (International Association of Art Critics).



Zoi Psimmenou

Zoi Psimmenou joined AHM as a PhD candidate in September 2026 with the research “Curating Multispecies Justice” under the supervision of Hanneke Grootenboer and Colin Sterling.

Her research, part of the NWO-funded project JUST ART, explores how spatial and curatorial practices can contribute to reimagining museums and cultural institutions as active social infrastructures through a multispecies lens.

Zoi is an interdisciplinary researcher, architect and curator. She holds a Master’s in Architecture from the National Technical University of Athens and a Master’s in Museum Studies from the

University of Amsterdam. In 2026, Zoi served as local curator for the Art Feeds Collective Residency, a Creative Europe project hosted by the Municipality of Almere exploring the intersection of food, climate justice, and art activism. In 2025, she worked as exhibition designer and project manager for the decolonial exhibitionary intervention *Staged Histories, Living Stories* in the Kartinizaal at the University of Amsterdam, led by Dr. Corina L. Apostol. Between 2025 and 2026, as resident programme curator at VOX-POP, UvA, she curated and produced *Spatial Encounters*, a series of public programs at the intersection of art, social justice and spatial design, as well as the exhibition *Printed Matters: The Politics and Aesthetics of Independent Publications*.



Renata Zangelmi

Renata Zangelmi joined AHM in September 2026 as a PhD candidate researching cultural participation and institutional transformation in public universities from a Latin American perspective. Focusing on the Directorate of Culture (DCult) at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, she investigates how

cultural practices enable diverse social groups to bring their cultures and forms of knowledge into the university and shape its cultural life. She also examines under what conditions this may contribute to institutional transformation.

Renata is a visual artist and researcher interested in contemporary art and the public sphere. Her artistic practice explores memory, collective experience, and negotiated and contested public spaces. She holds an MA in Visual Arts from UNICAMP, where her dissertation, *Poetic-Political Elements in the Artistic Production of Krzysztof Wodiczko*, examined art, public space and political engagement. Her artistic practice and academic research have developed in close dialogue.

Renata holds a Bsc in Engineering from UNICAMP and spent thirteen years in the corporate sector. She later co-founded and ran for thirteen years a contemporary jewellery company bringing Brazilian culture to international audiences through design. Since 2017, alongside her academic and artistic practice, she has worked in international education, supporting students pursuing higher education abroad.



Past Events

Research visit to Srebrenica

Between 13-17 September 2026, AHM academic staff, Prof. James Symonds, Prof. Maarten van Bommel, Dr Ana Serrano and Dr Nour Munawar, visited Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for Silent Witnesses: Conserving the Heritage and Memory of the Srebrenica Genocide, funded by the UvA AIHR Consortium Fund. At the Srebrenica Memorial Center (SMC) in Potočari, the UvA team met Dr Emir Suljagić, Director of the SMC, Azir Osmanović, SMC curator, and Ibrahim Avdić, SMC conservator, to discuss the personal objects survivors have kept, how to conserve them, and potential collaboration between the UvA and SMC. The visit lays the groundwork for an upcoming workshop in Amsterdam in November 2026 and a longterm broader research collaboration.



Genealogies of Memory Conference

At the recent Genealogies of Memory 2026 conference, held September 23-25 in Iași, Romania, AHM was prominently represented through the roundtable session “The Lasting Presence of Violence: Remembering, Narrating and Transmitting Trauma.”

Convened by Ihab Saloul and Nour Munawar, the session was expertly chaired by James Symonds and featured in-depth contributions from panelists Dawid Grabowski, Dana Dolghin, and Johana Kotišová. The concluding roundtable discussed the complex mechanisms through which historical violence and traumatic pasts are processed, narrated, and passed down across generations.

Through these collaborative efforts, the session highlighted AHM's ongoing dedication to advancing international scholarship on heritage, transgenerational memory, and the enduring impacts of conflict.



The next AHM Newsletter will be published in June, 2026.

Contributions can be sent to
ahm-fgw@uva.nl.

**Amsterdam School of Heritage, Memory and Material Culture
(AHM)**

Our mailing address is: ahm-fgw@uva.nl

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