



Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

AHM Newsletter September 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

Claiming land for art, claiming land through art

17 September, 17:00 - 19:00

University of Amsterdam

In what ways are land and colonialism related? This question will be explored during this hybrid meeting organised by Land Art Lives and the University of Amsterdam. Land art in the Netherlands has not previously been examined through a colonial lens, despite the potential for gaining new insights. Speakers include Dr. Emily Eliza Scott (University of Oregon), Dr. Hanneke Schuit (University of Amsterdam) and Dr. Anja Novak (University of Amsterdam). See the [website](#) for more information and registration.

Deliciae Fictiles VI: Architectural Terracottas in Ancient Italy

17 - 19 October, 2024

National Archaeological Museum of Tarquinia

Since the last edition of the Deliciae Fictiles conferences,

Calls and Vacancies

Research Project Assistant Deadline: 15 September 2024

AHM is looking for two enthusiastic and experienced project assistants as part of the Horizon Europe research project "DIGHT-NET, Sustainable, Usable and Visible Digital Cultural Heritage: Twinning for Excellence," led by Prof. Ihab Saloul. In this project, the UvA is working together with Tallinn University, the University of Bologna and the University of Turku to achieve a long-standing contribution to the European cultural heritage and its digital transformation. The deadline for applying is **15**

archaeological research has produced new evidence. These minimal or significant discoveries have expanded the corpus and the knowledge of the architectural terracottas of ancient Italy. This 6th edition will be organized according to topographical criteria and will be entirely focused on discoveries and rereadings of the theme. The meetings take place over two days, and the third day of the conference will be dedicated to a site inspection. More information and the preliminary program can be found on the [website](#).

SMBK Day and OH-SMArt Symposium 2024

28 November - 29 November

Roeterseilandcampus, University of Amsterdam

In conclusion of its three-year research project *Oral History - Stories at the Museum around Artworks* (OH-SMArt), the University of Amsterdam and SMBK (Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art) are hosting the joint SMBK Day and OH-SMArt Symposium. The event is themed FAIR use of Artist Interviews for Conservators and Curators. More information about the programme and registration can be found [here](#).

News

Amsterdam Diaries Time Machine

On 4 May, the first public application of the Amsterdam Time Machine was launched. The Amsterdam Diaries Time Machine website presents six diaries of women living in Amsterdam During World War II. Visitors of the applications can navigate through the diaries of these women and read about their families, friends, and how they experienced the city. The website was created by UvA-researcher Marleen Rensen and postdoc Janna Aerts, in collaboration with creative partner [Total Design](#). The project was funded by [Network Digital Heritage \(NDE\)](#). The application can be found [here](#) (currently only available in Dutch).

PhD Skills Courses

University of Amsterdam

This academic year, several courses in the PhD Skills programme will be offered to PhD researchers of the Faculty of Humanities again. Candidates can choose from four generic categories of skills development courses: organisation, co-operation and networking,

September 2024. For more information, please check the [full vacancy](#).

Finishing Fellowships 2025

Deadline: 1 October 2024

Every year the Faculty of Humanities offers a limited number of Finishing Fellowships to PhD candidates who have succeeded in writing an advanced draft of their thesis without the support of structural funding. The fellowships aim to enable self-funded PhD candidates to concentrate more exclusively on the completion of their thesis in their last year. For more information about the application and selection for this fellowship, see the [website](#). For Finishing Fellowships tenable from January 1, 2025, the application deadline is **1 October 2024**.

communication and presentation, and preparing for the future. For more information about the PhD Skills programme, see the [website](#).

Three UvA humanities scholars awarded fellowships

Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study

Dr. Houssine Alloul, Prof. James Symonds and Leendert van der Valk have been selected for a residency at the [Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences \(NIAS-KNAW\)](#). The scholarship will allow them to work on their own research project for five months during the 2024-2025 academic year. More information about the selected researchers and their projects can be found [here](#).

New BA Course | Narrating Palestine: Global Politics of Conflict Heritage and Memory

In semester 2 of this academic year (2024-2025), Prof. Ihab Saloul will be teaching the new BA course "Narrating Palestine: Global Politics of Conflict Heritage and Memory." This course explores global politics and the dynamics of conflict heritage and memory in the aftermath of the war in Gaza and the Middle East. Among other things, students will learn how to challenge and critique rudimentary and antagonistic tropes, and instead study the diverse and multilayered past, present, and future of Palestine and the region, and develop academic skills to intervene in polarized public discussions. The course is open for BA students of all Humanities departments with a BSA, and BA students outside of Humanities with a propedeuse. Have a look [here](#) for more information on this course.

New Research Projects

Black Magic - (Re)discovering the development and changes of black woollens quality standards in the 18th-century Leiden's staalmeesters books

The research project coordinated by Dr. Ana Serrano and Prof. Maarten van Bommel "Black Magic – (Re)discovering the development and changes of black woollens quality standards in the 18th-century Leiden's staalmeesters sample books" recently received a [NWO \(Dutch Research Council\)](#) grant. The research will

PhD Position in Architectural History and Heritage

Deadline: 15 October 2024

AHM currently has a vacant fully funded PhD position as part of the 'Concrete Colonialism: Architecture and Heritage in Indonesia around Independence', led by principal investigators and daily advisors Dr. Rixt Woudstra and Dr. David Duindam and supervised by Prof. Esther Peeren. The PhD candidate will work on their own project as part of the research team, which sets out to examine the local and transregional networks of fabrication, production, distribution, use and decay of building materials, with a specific focus on concrete. For more information, see the [full vacancy](#). Deadline for applying is **15 October 2024**.

Call for Papers: Heritage, Memory and Conflict Journal (HMC)

Deadline: 30 October 2024

There is currently an open Call for Papers for the next issue of the [Heritage, Memory and Conflict Journal \(HMC\)](#). This journal is edited by Dr. Mario Panico and Prof. Ihab Saloul and published by Amsterdam University Press in Open Access. Issue 1/2025 invites contributions that explore how heritage and memory narratives construct individual/collective categories of victimhood and perpetration in times of crisis and conflict from diverse political geographies, historical contexts and transnational perspectives. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **30 October 2024**. More information can be found [here](#).

be carried together with co-applicant [Museum De Lakenhal](#), and the [Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands \(RCE\)](#). The project will be furthermore supported by the [Rijksmuseum Amsterdam](#), [The Radboud University Nijmegen](#), the [Textile Museum](#) in Tilburg and the [University of Antwerp](#). The research will employ one PhD student and one postdoctoral researcher.

The project will focus primarily on a unique collection of 33 *staalmeestersboeken*, which are books filled with hundreds of black-dyed woollen samples, and which are part of the Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden, Netherlands (See image below). These books are the result of minutely registered inspections on black broadcloth fabrics produced by the Leiden textile industry between 1695 and 1791, a period coinciding with Leiden's prominence and subsequent decline as leading centre of broadcloth production. Leiden was indeed one of the most important early modern European centres of black wool manufacture, importing fine Spanish merino wool and expensive American dyes to make broadcloth meant for export to Southern Europe, Africa or Asia. The books are therefore an invaluable early testimony for the development of advanced standardization practices and quality controls for an international market, and irreplaceable reference records of hundred years of Dutch textile heritage and historical colour knowledge. This raises this project's major research question: How did Leiden's role as an international textile centre and its place in the globalisation of trade in the 18th century shaped the institutionalization of colour quality controls?

Although the books have remained largely inaccessible due to their fragile condition, a recently established advanced digitisation method has come to allow their much needed study. This project aims to unlock their immense potential to establish how colour quality controls institutionalised at Lakenhal came to shape Leiden's role as an international textile centre and its place in the globalisation of trade in the 18th century. In this context, it aims to determine the ingredients and methods of production used in the *staalmeestersboeken* samples; how quality control and colour standardization practices developed and changed; and to what extent Leiden's regulations on black wool production corresponded to actual practices performed by local industries. In addition, it aims to draw conclusions on the current condition of the wool samples

Call for Abstracts:

Deadline: 1 November 2024

The UvA Conservation and Restoration Department will host a second edition of the masterclass *The Dutch Method Unfolded* on the wax-resin lining painting in January 2025. The Getty Foundation is graciously supporting the project a second time. This support includes funds for a publication on wax-resin lining. The publication aims to offer to the fields of conservation and art history a standard resource with state-of-the-art knowledge on the topic of wax-resin lining. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **1 November 2024**. More information can be found [here](#).

and their future preservation in the books.

The project was submitted to the NWO call "[An Integrated Approach to the Scientific Study and Conservation of Art](#)" and will be carried out within the framework of the [Netherlands Institute for Conservation, Art and Science \(NICAS\)](#).



Lakenhal Sample Book folio with two rows of black wool samples attached with red sealing wax on the pages, inv. no. 1312.01 (Photo credits: Museum De Lakenhal).

PREservation of PAintings in a sustainable futuRE (PREPARE)

A research project coordinated by Dr. Joen Hermans (FGw/FNWI) entitled "Preservation of Paintings in a sustainable future (PREPARE)" received a grant from NWO. Like all of us, museums are faced with the need to reduce their energy consumption. Since maintaining tight indoor climate conditions is very energy-intensive, widening those climate tolerances would have a big impact. However, we currently lack scientific data to ensure safe implementation of indoor climate guidelines for paintings.

The PREPARE project addresses this urgent issue by studying oil paintings in Dutch historic interiors with little climate-control, where the effects of climate-induced change in paintings are most easily observed. A parallel line in the project is the design of model systems based on the material composition of paintings that are very sensitive to climate fluctuations. These models can serve as a kind of "dosimeter" that allow quantitative comparison of different indoor climates, and they will help establishing the root cause of climate-induced mechanical failure in paintings. Finally, the project will yield low-tech monitoring protocols for chemical early-warning sign detection and a risk classification of paint materials and climate

conditions.

The research will be carried out in close collaboration with the [Rijksmuseum](#), [Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg \(SRAL\)](#), and the [Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands \(RCE\)](#). This highly interdisciplinary project brings together researchers and conservators with vast expertise in paintings analysis, preventive conservation, oil paint chemistry and climate monitoring. The project will employ one PhD student and a postdoc.

The project was submitted to the NWO call "[An Integrated Approach to the Scientific Study and Conservation of Art](#)" and will be carried out within the framework of [the Netherlands Institute for Conservation, Art and Science \(NICAS\)](#).

Exploring New Futures for Indonesia Objects: Dismantling Colonial Knowledge Production and Recovering Lost Histories and Memories

[NWO \(Dutch Research Council\)](#) has awarded funding to 11 research projects within their call for 'Research into collections with a colonial context.' Among the awarded projects is a Consortium grant for the project "Exploring New Futures for Indonesian Objects: Dismantling Colonial Knowledge Production and Recovering Lost Histories and Memories." This Consortium is a partnership between [University of Amsterdam](#) (Prof. [Ihab Saloul](#)), [Universitas Gadjah Mada \(UGM\)](#) (Prof. Bambang Purwanto), [Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan \(Ministry of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia\)](#) (Dr. [Hilmar Farid](#)), [Wereldmuseum](#) (Dr. [Mirjam Hoijsink](#)) and [Rijksmuseum](#) (Drs. [Harm Stevens](#)). The research project seeks to investigate continuing colonial frameworks of knowledge about cultural objects and their histories and explore new frameworks to research and knowledge of cultural objects collected in colonial situations. The research will explore objects of the Lombok war booty as windows through which memories and histories of their original values and meanings can be viewed. For more information on the awarded grants click [here](#).

New AHM Members

Jorien Duivenvoorden

Jorien Duivenvoorden has been appointed Assistant Professor of Conservation of Historic Interiors in a Socio-material Context at the University of Amsterdam and Academic Staff Member at AHM. Her work centers around climate-induced material degradation, preventive conservation and condition monitoring, with a special focus on wall painting in the historic interior. Jorien will teach in the master and minor program Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the University of Amsterdam. Jorien holds a BSc in Chemistry (UvA) and an MA in Conservation of Wall Painting (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK). As a wall painting conservator and educator, Jorien has worked on several international conservation projects in The Netherlands and abroad. Her PhD research is entitled 'Transport and behaviour of water in oil paintings' and was performed at the Rijksmuseum and the Van 't Hoff Institute of Molecular Sciences at the UvA. In this study, Jorien combined computational simulations, spectroscopy and a technical study of paint samples to understand how the museum indoor climate can affect the chemical stability of oil paintings. Her future research will focus on material degradation in the historic interior, sustainable conservation approaches and the challenges of in-situ conservation.

**New Publications**

***Heritage, Memory and Material Culture: Research-Teaching-Society Nexus.* Edited by Ihab Saloul, Sophie Berrebi, Nour Munawar and Mario Panico, 2024**

Marking the start of the annual AHM Conference 2024, was the

publication of our conference proceedings titled 'Heritage, Memory and Material Culture: Research-Teaching-Society Nexus.' The objective of the A proceedings volume was to bring together AHM scholars, early-career researchers, PhD candidates, practitioners, and professionals to showcase their work. The proceedings volume was published by [Amsterdam University Press](#) as part of their open access and peer-reviewed 'History, Culture, and Heritage' proceedings series. All papers are available online and can be found [here](#).



Past Events

AHM Annual Conference: AHM at 10

On 20 - 21 June, we hosted the 2024 edition of the annual AHM Conference. During the conference, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the research school by showcasing the research conducted in the school and highlighting our collaborations with social and institutional partners. Once again, a big thanks to all those who attended and contributed. See the picture below for an impression of the conference. More pictures can be found on [AHM's LinkedIn page](#).



Picture taken during the closing session with (from left to right) Sophie Berrebi, Ihab Saloul and the Dean of the Humanities Faculty Marieke de Goede.

Photo by Tara Lenard.

The next AHM Newsletter will be published in November 2024. Contributions can be sent to ahm-fgw@uva.nl.



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Website

Amsterdam School of Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

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