AHM

Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

AHM Newsletter June 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 contexts and narratives of the past and 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 supports PhD training, seminars and lecture series, leading groups, public debates as well as international workshops and conferences. Please take a look at our website for more information.

12th Annual AHM Conference

UNSETTLING HERITAGE & MEMORY FUTURES

17 - 19 JUNE 2026
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

2026 AHM Conference
12th Annual Conference
Unsettling Heritage and Memory Futures
Decolonial Trajectories between Crisis and Possibility
17, 18 and 19 June, 2026

The 12th Annual Conference of the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture, titled 'Unsettling Heritage and Memory Futures: Decolonial Trajectories Between Crisis and Possibility' takes place on 17-19 June, 2026 at the University of Amsterdam. The organising committee is excited to share with you the finalised programme and the abstracts, available through the conference website.

The conference programme includes two keynote panels that focus on decoloniality in Palestine and in South America and the Caribbean, with contributions from Prof. Prof. Mitri Raheb, Dr. Marieke de Hoon, Prof. Dr. Adelia Sinaluiza, Dr. Claudia Hasbun Urrea and Dr. Bruno Bruno Soares. Moreover, the conference programme includes 12 panels, 3 roundtables, 1 workshop and 1 film screening on memory and material culture. The conference is free and open to attend for anyone interested. Please register your attendance for the conference here. For more information, please see the conference website here.

Keynote Panels

Keynote 1: Decoloniality in Palestine: Law, and Narrative Sovereignty

Date: 17 June, 16:15-17:45

Location: University Theatre

The keynote panel promises to be not just an analysis of a situation, but an active engagement in the intellectual and practical work of decolonisation. The keynote panel envisions a critical practice in international discourse on Palestine, hinged explicitly through the lens of decolonial theory and practice. Moving beyond conventional geopolitical analysis, the panel will dissect the multifaceted structures of occupation, erasure, and resistance by examining two interconnected pillars: international Law as a site of power and the contested narrative sovereignty in Palestine. The panel will critically interrogate how international law perpetuates the European colony, legal accountability, and the ideological underpinnings of settler-colonialism. The panel aims to create a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic dialogue that bridges the immediacy of political developments with deeper, systemic critiques of power, knowledge, and justice.

12th Annual AHM Conference

KEYNOTE PANEL
DECOLONIALITY IN PALESTINE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: **Rev. Prof. Mitri Raheb**
Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University

Dr. Marieke de Hoon
Associate Professor of International Criminal Law, University of Amsterdam

Prof. Dr. Adelia Sinaluiza
Professor of International Criminal Law and co-Founder of Transnational Criminal Law Research Centre

MODERATOR: **Dr. Nenad Mustafa**
Assistant Professor in Black Studies, Critical Race Studies, and Indigenous Studies, University of Amsterdam

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026** 16:15 - 17:45

LOCATION: **UNIVERSITY THEATRE** UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Prof. Adelia Sinaluiza

Adelia Sinaluiza is a full professor of international crimes at the University of Groningen and one of the founders of Transnational Criminology, the criminology of international crimes which brings together scholars from various disciplines fields who study mass atrocities. In her own research she relies on inter- and multidisciplinary approach and focuses on international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) as well as economic crimes. Her cases-finest: the perpetrators and the international criminal justice system. She wrote Perpetrators of Mass Atrocities: Identity and Sociology Norms" (Routledge 2020) and has contributed to Dutch with the title: Argeloosheid van Verdachten (KNAW 2019). She is currently writing a book, together with another scholar, on the Dutch colonial legacy in the field. Together with Marieke she is also the co-founder of the Transnational Criminal Law Research Centre, see here. For more information, see her website.

Rev. Prof. Dr. Mitri Raheb

Rev. Prof. Dr. Mitri Raheb is the Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. The most widely published Palestinian theologian to date, Dr. Raheb is the author and editor of 34 books including Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible, Politics of Persecution, Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire, Faith in the Face of Empire, The Bible through Palestinian Eyes, Christ Palestinian and Christ Crucified, Christ Liberator and Christ Crucified, and Faith in Exile. Founding and board member of the National Library of Palestine, Rev. Dr. Raheb received his honorary doctorates and several international awards including the German Bible Prize was awarded to Dr. Raheb. The work of Dr. Raheb has received wide media attention from major international media outlets and networks. Dr. Raheb holds a Doctorate in Theology from the Philipps University at Marburg, Germany. For his website, see here.

Dr. Marieke de Hoon

Dr. Marieke de Hoon is Associate Professor of international criminal law at the University of Amsterdam and Director of the Amsterdam Center for Criminal Justice. Her research examines the law and politics of legal interventions in conflict. Is criminalized law law is shaped in geopolitical contexts and how politics is shaped through the power of the language of law and its institutions. Her focus currently has a research grant to track a research group analyzing the legislative and transnationalization of the ethnicity crimes investigations landscape, and how that impacts the role of the domestic prosecutor of international crimes. She has regularly testified in Dutch parliament on the qualification of and obligations under the Genocide Convention and international criminal law for states and their political actors, including related to Israel/Palestine.

Keynote 2: Decoloniality and Community: Critical Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

Date: 18 June, 16:00-17:30

Location: University Theatre

The keynote panel assembles critical perspectives on community and decoloniality in heritage practices of archaeology, museology, and philosophy across Latin America and the Caribbean. The panel will consider "community" as an object that is, on the one hand, constructed by institutional logics as the face of ancient decolonial approaches, and on the other, a real, material, and creative form of kinship and life that resists in historical and contemporary matrices of power, both from within and without. Panelists will discuss the contemporary relevance of Andean ayllu, Quilombo, and Caribbean Maroon communities as three dynamic, archaeological discourse and practice, the museum, as a site of contestation, interpretive materiality, material inequality, histories and legacies of colonialism, and the real-world complexity of institutional arrangements, the panel aims to balance rigorous critique with practical case studies and offer feasible templates for the future.

12th Annual AHM Conference

KEYNOTE PANEL
DECOLONIALITY IN SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: **Dr. Claudia Hasbun Urrea Chinen**
Adjunct Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Dr. Bruno Bruno Soares
Reader in Museum and Heritage Studies, School of Art History, University of Saint Andrews

MODERATOR: **Aldo Auzinelli Obando**
Doctoral Student, Archaeology, University of Amsterdam

DATE/TIME: **THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026** 16:00 - 17:30

LOCATION: **UNIVERSITY THEATRE** UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Dr. Claudia Urrea Chinen

Dr. Claudia Urrea Chinen is an archaeologist specializing in public archaeology, heritage studies and the archaeology of earthen architecture. She holds a Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. Her research critically examines heritage policies and governance frameworks, archaeological ethics, and the production of the Prehispanic earthen landscapes and the central coast of Peru. She currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Humanities at PUCP. Curator of the Juseofina Pancho de Cox Museum of Archaeology (PM-PUCP), and Associate Researcher at the Rosa Agüero Institute.

Dr. Bruno Bruno Soares

Bruno Bruno Soares is a museologist and anthropologist trained in Brazil whose research interests have focused on the relationships of museums with society, practices of collecting, and the political uses of heritage. He has a Ph.D. in Anthropology (2012) and another in Contemporary History (2016) both from Universidade Federal Fluminense, and an MA in Museology and Heritage Studies (2006) from Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Soares is currently a Reader in Museum and Heritage Studies in the School of Art History. Prior to joining St Andrews, he was Professor of Museology and Heritage Studies at Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (2010-2022) and Chair of the International Committee for Museology of ICOM, the International Council of Museums (2019-2022).

AHM Events

SPUI 25 Programme: Trauma and Affect

25 June, 17:00

Lecture hall

In the programme Prof. Ernst van Alphen, Prof. Aad Sauter, Eugenie Brinkema, and Renate Dyrkus engage in a dialogue regarding the Alphen's latest book, Trauma and Affect, in which he explores the power of these concepts through art and literature.

Trauma and affect both concepts have become increasingly important in the critique of art, literature, and culture since the 1990s. This concepts have been used in many different ways and disciplines, including queer studies, feminism, cultural analyses, art criticism, literary studies, and postcolonial studies, as well as sociology and economics. However, with this current tendency to easily use the concepts in relation to everyday events, they have suffered from inflation. This term "suffering" underlying particular the terms have been overused and exhausted, thereby losing their critical power. The panel will engage in a discussion concerning questions such as, what relevance and critical power do the concepts hold today? And how are they interrelated? For more information and registration for the event, see website here.

PhD Defence Anne Lagerin: Back to Transparency, Back to Life

29 June, 11:00 - 12:30

Lecture hall

On the 29th of June, Anne Lagerin will defend her dissertation Back to Transparency, Back to Life. Investigating Houses and Decolonizing Treatments for the Conservation of Transparent Plastics in Art and Design. Supervisors are Prof. B.R. van Bommel, Prof. E. Hendrikx and Dr. R. Rivers.

News

Announcing a new series from CIS Press:

NEW CIS Press Book Series
Palestine: Past, Present and Future Narratives

Prof. Aad Sauter will serve as series editor of the new book series Palestine: Past, Present and Future Narratives at CIS Press. The series' aim is to contribute to a rigorous exchange of identity narratives and meaningful dialogue, and to explain the ambiguous and relational nature of colonial structures, cultures of Palestinians and forms of exclusion, as well as the struggle for equality made and sustain of Indigenous Palestine.

Narratives of Palestine have always been actually politically charged and culturally indispensable for Palestinians, Israelis, and people around the world. The aim of the series is to offer a platform for a genuinely interdisciplinary book series that critically analyses identity narratives and collective expressions of Palestine. The series fosters a critical, inclusive and diverse platform for examining the ways in which past, present and future narratives of Palestine are articulated, reconfigured, broaden historical and public understandings, and offer a counter to Eurocentric, orientalist traditions and hegemonic modes of knowledge production about Palestine.

Call for books proposals

We welcome book proposals that deal with topics such as, but are not limited to, competing memories; counter hostages and contested histories; war, conflict, and violence; genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; Palestinian diaspora; Palestinian refugees; Palestinian exile; Palestinian ideology; right of return; forces and mobilized; state and diaspora; exclusion; Palestinian political obligations; borders, migration and citizenship; cultures of resistance and emancipation; legal foundations and international law; economics of settler colonialism; postquaternary ecologies; religion and heritage; politics of activism; social media; politics; culture; trauma; recurring and reconciliation; literature; culture and Palestinian identity; Palestinian cinematography; Palestinian theatre; Palestinian art; Palestinian and Holocaust memory; weaponization of environmental/ecological vulnerabilities; Holocaust-centered western moral order; and the diverse imaginations of radical political change and futures. For the website, see here.

New Research Project
Dutch and Transnational Spaces: The Rio de la Plata and Dutch Cartography in the 19th and 17th Centuries

AHM staff member Prof. Bram Mertensmeyer-Kumar, together with Dr. Gaspar van Harten (University of Amsterdam) and Prof. Lucas Rodríguez Arribalzaga (Universidad de la República) created new funding for the NWO research into collectors with a colonial context. This project aims to remedy the imperfectly understood role of the first political maps of Rio de la Plata by means of an open-origin movement. The first movement involves carrying out a research phase in museums and archives in the Netherlands with the aim of gaining a more complete understanding of the context in which these works were produced and their current relationship. The second movement implies that the research allows us to value the cartographic heritage existing in Uruguay and Argentina, with special attention to the cartography produced by the Dutch in the 17th century. The consortium partners include Amelia Kaiser (National Historical Museum), Dr van der Plas (Utrecht Person Museum), Jeroen van der Ham (Van Schaik Bibliomedia).

European grant for research into young people and democracy

AHM staff member Dr. Kristina Lapin is involved in the project, Young Stories: Living and Breathing Democracy. The project has been awarded a European grant under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme in which an international consortium will investigate how young people experience democracy in different parts of Europe. A key component of the project is the Storytelling Lab, which will develop an accessible and versatile social archiving environment centred on personal stories about systemic change. In addition, the lab will shape these stories into a young audience, with the help of young journalists and content creators from various countries.

Kai Tying Kyong wins Lim Tai Theses Prize for the Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities you has named Kai Tying Kyong (Modern Heritage and Memory Studies) as the faculty winner of the LIM-SIN Thesis Prize. In his thesis 'Imagining Sumarenne Plantation Ecologies of Chinese Indentures', Tying Kyong introduces the concept of 'plantation ecology', an analytical and methodological framework for understanding the interrelated relationships between people – including Chinese indentured labourers, Dorset enslaved people and Dutch colonial officer – and non-human actors on Sumarenne plantations.

The next AHM Newsletter will be published in September 2026. Contributions can be sent to: ahm-fgw@uva.nl

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