

12th Annual AHM Conference

UNSETTLING HERITAGE & MEMORY FUTURES

**DECOLONIAL TRAJECTORIES
BETWEEN CRISIS & POSSIBILITY**

17 - 19 JUNE 2026
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



9:00 – 9:30

University Theatre

Conference Registration

9:30 – 10:00

University Theatre

Opening Remarks

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, Spinozazaal

Chair: Camilla Orjuela

Xi “Títíláyǒ” Jin, *Contrapuntal Objects: Rethinking Restitution and the Question of Home*

Staffan Lundén, *“It Was as If I Had Brought Benin With Me Here”: On the Benin Bronzes, Belonging, and Home*

Annika Vosseler and Michael La Corte, *Where Does a Taonga Go “Home” To? Restitution, Relationality, and Indigenous Belonging in the Case of Hinematiaro’s Pou*

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

Session 2: Negotiating Identity in Contemporary Peru

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Aldo Accinelli Obando

Claudia Uribe-Chinen, *Commitment and Constraint: the Fragility of Heritage Ethics amid Coloniality and Peru’s Institutional Crisis*

Katherine A. Román Aquino, *Peru’s Virtual Museums. What do they Narrate?*

Javier Lizarzaburu, *Monuments, Politics of Memory and Decolonial Futures in Lima*

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

10:00 – 11:30

Session 3: Decolonial Opera

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Krisztina Lajosi

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

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

Nicholas Till, *Orpheus Conquistador*

Emilio Aguilar, *The Fach system: Classification, Labor, and Decoloniality in Opera*

Xiaoke Zhang, *Opera as Living Heritage: The internal decolonization 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, *Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: Navigating the Political Terrain of Memory in Georgian Social Media and Museums*

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

Jan Hüsgen, *Who Governs Collaboration? Funding Regimes and the Limits of Decolonial Provenance Research*

Session 5: Heritage Beyond Heritage Roundtable

University Library, Chirurgisch Theater

Chair: Nawal Mustafa

Participants: Tessel M. Bauduin, Jamila J. Ghaddar, Alma Igra, Linde Luijnenburg, Claire Stocks, and Laura van Hasselt

12:00-13:30

Session 6: Ritual and World-Making

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Dawid Grabowski

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

Daisy Corbin O'Grady, *'Working out Complicated Futures Together': Ecosomatic Practice as Epistemological Strategy*

Zhangluyuan Charlie Yang, *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 7: Cities and Post-Conflict

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Corina L. Apostol

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

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

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

Session 8: Counter-Narratives and Conflict

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: David Duindam

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

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

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



14:30 – 16:00

Session 9: Archives and Digitality

University Library, Chirurgisch Theater

Chair: Charles Jeurgens

Jawida Mansour, *Algorithmic Return: AI Reconstruction as Counter-Memory in Post-Genocide Palestine*

Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera & Mamarama Seck, *Reading the Silence: Archival Violence, Contested Memory, and the Reclamation of Omar ibn Said*

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

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee Break

16:45 – 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



9:00 – 9:30

University Theatre

Conference Registration

9:30 – 11:00

Session 10: Emerging Solidarities, New Directions

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Tamara van Kessel

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

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

Lucas da Costa Maciel, *Refusing Disconnection: Decolonial Futures and Languages of Repair within the Museum Practices*

Session 11: Space and Infrastructures

University Library, Spinozaal

Chair: David Duindam

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

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

Débora Faccin, *Confluence and the Decentering of History: Learning from Antônio Bispo dos Santos*

Session 12: Colonial Legacies

University Theatre, Room 101A

Chair: Ana Serrano

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

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

Yoke-Sum Wong, *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 13: The Politics of the Collections

University Theatre, Room 101A

Chair: Gregor Langfeld

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

Lena Steffens, *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, *Decolonising Heritage through XR: Achievements, Limits, and Custodial Authority*

Session 14: Diasporic Memories

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Asli Özgen-Havekotte

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

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

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

Session 15: Colonial Museums

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Francesco Chiaravalloti

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

Maria Suarez Caicedo, *Beyond Colonial Temporality: contemporary art as a Decolonial Practice in Southern Colombia*

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

13:00 - 14:00

University Theatre

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30

Session 16: Sites of Violence and Industrial Heritage

University Library, Chirurgisch Theater

Chair: Dana Dolghin

Arantxa Figueroa-Pizarro, *Postpreserving (un)Productive Voids. Material Absences and Industrial Heritage in Northern Chile*

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

Saad Kaikobad, *Beyond Heritage: Ruplal House as a Site of Collective Inheritance*



14:00 - 15:30

Session 17: Monuments and Imagination

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: Claire Stocks

Zack Martin, *Countering Leopoldian Monuments: Dialogism and Provisionality on view in Belgium*

Corina L. Apostol and Zoi Psimmenou, *Staged Histories, Living Stories: Challenges of Decolonial Curating in the Kartinizaal at UvA (2025-2026)*

Łukasz Gawel, *Internal Decolonization: Heritage, Domination, and Post-Authoritarian Landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe*

Session 18: Where is Home? People, Places and the Restitution of Colonial Era-Plunder (2)

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Fisseha Fantahun Tefera

Maria Menzel, *"I Walk, I Won't Ever Stop": Speculative Voice and the Limits of Restitution in Dahomey (2024)*

Madalyn Grant, *The Institutional Production of "Home": Repatriation and the Politics of Indigenous Representation*

Kia Pyykkönen, *The Politics of Homecoming: Conditional Restitution and Sámi Cultural Heritage in Nordic Museums*

16:00 - 17:30

University Theatre

KEYNOTE PANEL

Decoloniality and Community: Critical Perspectives from South America and the Caribbean

Dr. Beatriz Marín-Aguilera, University of Liverpool

Dr. Bruno Brulon Soares, University of St Andrews

Dr. Claudia Hatsumi Uribe Chinen, Centro De Estudios Orientales

Moderator: Aldo Accinelli Obando

18:00 - 20:00

BG2 Cafe

Conference Dinner



9:30 - 10:00

University Theatre

Conference Registration

10:00 - 11:30

Session 19: Where is Home? People, Places and the Restitution of colonial Era-Plunder (3)

University Theatre, Room 101

Chair: Staffan Lundén

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

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

Elke Selter, *The Challenges of Returning Spiritually Important Objects*

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

Session 20: Keywords for Restitution of Colonial Archives: Creator, Owner, Voice, Provenance

University Library, Spinozazaal

Chair: Emily Clark

Michael Karabinos, *Power and Creation in Colonial Archives*

Emily Clark, *Voice and Personhood in Colonial Sound Archives*

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

11:30 - 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30

Session 21: Iran, Iraq, and Cyprus

University Theatre, Room 301

Chair: James Symonds

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

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



12:00 - 13:30

Session 22: Praxis and Institutions

University Library, Ruyszaal

Chair: Christian Olesen

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

Charlotte Vekemans, *Destabilizing Heritage Universality through Turāth*

Session 23: Returning to Haifa: Displacement, Memory and the Right of Return

University Library, Spinozaal

Chair: Luís Calle y Bonaccorso

Anna Mangiacapra

Domenico Salvatore Galluccio

Enya Dignam Mak

Francesco De Nigris

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

James Symonds, **Ihab Saloul** and **Nour Munawar**

16:00 - 18:00

BG2 Cafe

Closing Drinks

