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BULLETIN

Cambridge Heritage Research Centre
9 April 2019

CHRC News

Registration Open for the Annual Heritage Lecture 2019

The 2nd Annual Heritage Lecture will be given by Prof Mark Turin on 7 May 2019. **Language as Heritage: Indigenous Language Resurgence in the 21st Century**

Free Admissions, register at <https://bit.ly/2BxGmVy>

Registration Open for the 20th Cambridge Heritage Symposium

The 20th Cambridge Heritage Symposium will take place at the McDonald Institute, Cambridge on 10-10 May 2019. **The Heritage of Food: cooking identities and tasting memories**

Register at <https://bit.ly/2Tkw450>

COVER STORY

Western Sudan Community Museums Project

The CHRC is one of four partners on the **Western Sudan Community Museums Project**, a British Council Cultural Protection Fund project aiming to restore three museums in Western Sudan and provide for the educational and cultural needs of their communities, visitors and tourists.

At the halfway point of this 2 years programme, Mallinson Architects and Engineers Director, Michael Mallinson reports on the project's progress.

Image: *Ta'aisha, the people of the El Mahdia and Khalifa, arrive from Berti, to attend the community event held to celebrate the opening of the Darfur Museum.*

(full report on page 2)



Project Report

Western Sudan Community Museums Project

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre (CHRC) is one of four partners on the Western Sudan Community Museums Project. A British Council Cultural Protection Funded project, with the Prince Claus Fund, the other three partners are the Sudan National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM), ICCROM Athar, and Mallinson Architects and Engineers.

The project aim is to restore and protect the culture of Western Sudan by repairing and renewing the museums in war-torn Western Sudan in Nyala (capital of South Darfur, population 2 million, Darfur is the size of France), and EL Obeid (capital of North Kordofan, population 1.1 million, Kordofan is the size of Germany), and Omdurman (main Western Sudan urban settlement of refugees in Khartoum, population 2 million). The projects aims are to provide facilities and training for the NCAM staff to open the museums to the local communities and involve them in their heritage protection. Many of these populations are recently settled in camps in the towns due to the surrounding violence, and many are at risk of losing their cultural identity due to the conflict. The role of the CHRC participation is to focus on rebuilding cultural identity following the conflict and allow the communities to participate in their heritage despite their displacement, and loss of opportunities to practise their culture.

The project is halfway through its programme of 2 years. It aims to open in December this year, and has so far achieved:

1. Omdurman - Khalifa House National Museum

Restoration by NCAM of the Khalifa House buildings as a national museum on the history of Western Sudan and its importance to the creation of modern Sudan through El Mahdi and El Khalifa who founded Omdurman after the fall of Khartoum in January 26th 1885 and death of General Charles Gordon. The area was settled with the Western Sudan population and a new independent state created that survived to the Turkish/British reoccupation in 1898.

Restoration by NCAM of the Bramble House, a previous DC's house for Western Sudan, as a community museum for the population of Omdurman in Khartoum a venue for music, handicrafts, traditional food, and education for children and adults in the traditions and history of the Western Sudan.

From Flints to Flintlocks - The museums exhibitions cover not only the Mahdist period flint lock rifles and other artefacts, but also the unique pre-historic collection of J.Arkeel the first archaeologist of Sudan which includes materials from first human settlements along the Nile, from Omdurman and around Sudan. This collection was discovered undisturbed in 1940s whisky crates in the store

rooms, and will be displayed as evidence of early humans in Sudan, and the importance of traditional cultures to understand the changing landscapes, ecologies and habitation of Western Sudan.

2. El Obeid - Sheikan Museum

The Sheikan museum, the first modern museum in Sudan opened in 1972, contains displays of Sudan's history and heritage of the first victory of El Mahdi over the Turkish with the defeat of Hicks Pasha at the Battle of Sheikan in November 3rd 1883. The new project transforms this with a new entrance building built by NCAM that focuses on the communities of Kordofan, displaced in recent years to the capital, from the nomadic Baggara to refugees from the Nuba Mountains. The rich traditions of music, handicraft and food, are contrasted with their history and modern-day changing environments. Cattle nomadism is being replaced with local farming and El Obeid is a successful trading centre for South Sudan. This tradition of long-distance trade is bought out through the displays also of newly discovered heritage brought in by the local communities showing their links to Western Africa and the Red Sea. The Wali of Kordofan has also donated land to create an education garden on the environments of the region that include UNESCO Biospheres and will be designed to show how modern climate change is affecting the region. The recently rediscovered gate way of the first Turkish administrative buildings is also being restored, as a monument to the period of history under Turkish rule when over 50% of the 1820s population of Kordofan was sold into slavery in the markets of Cairo, a trade only finally suppressed by General Charles Gordon and his colleague Romolo Gessi in the 1870s.

Celebration Dances at the Opening of Darfur Museum, Nyala in November 2018.

3. Nyala - Darfur Museum



Darfur museum was opened by NCAM in July 2006 to celebrate the culture and heritage of Darfur, Nyala being the largest city and refugee centre for the region. It was closed

West Sudan Community Museums Project

almost immediately due to the conflict in the region, and NCAM with the project re-opened the museum in November last year at the occasion of the National Schools celebrations held annually around Sudan. This was an expression of new confidence for peace in the region, and was welcomed by the local community. The museum received 10,000 visitors over the 7 days of festival, and is still attracting over 200 a day since. It includes an children's education room, as well as displays on local heritage and the history of Sudan. The project aims this year to expand the education training programmes, and also the community heritage identification programme to map the surrounding areas to identify the culture that is valued by the local communities. Improved facilities are proposed for the performance of traditional and modern dance. Nyala means "Place of Meeting, Storytelling and Dancing", as this is the traditional northern migration point of the surrounding nomads. Now that they are forced to settle it will become a focus of celebration of their different traditions of dance, horse riding, traditional food, and handicraft making. A display of the nomadic tents used for festivals is planned as well as examples of the local archaeology. The Tora and Tungur Archaeology, Dajo, and Fur cultures, along with 150 different local languages provide a broad spectrum of traditions to be displayed.

School Groups creating learning projects from the collections of the re-opened Nyala Museum

Education, Management and Conservation Workshops - Sustainable Museums



The project has completed, with NCAM staff, education and management programmes that involve the local

communities so that they can identify and create exhibitions that they wish to see about their own heritage. The museums are to express the local cultures as they wish to have depicted, which allows for both modern and traditional life to be displayed. The purpose of this is to make the collections of sustainable interest, and involve the local schools through their curriculums but also activities of hands on learning about the different cultural traditions of each area.

For the physical collections, the workshops for NCAM Staff have trained in material conservation but also in the collection management, storage and protection of the displays. The purpose of the museums to attract the display of heritage belonging to the communities to be displayed is also reinforced by sharing the data digitising and recording with another British Council Cultural Protection Funded project Sudan Memory, who also will make this heritage available to all schools and people in Sudan through web sites and digital information in hubs in the museums and other education institutions.

The next six months will see the completion of the building projects and start of the community and education programmes within the buildings. The State Minister of Culture of Sudan has promised to support the running of these programmes after the end of the project, as well as the local museums developing their own fundraising programmes to ensure the future of their activities.

The project was made possible through the Director General of NCAM Dr Abdelrahman Ali, Head of Conservation Iglal El Malik, Head of Museums Dr Ghallia Mohamed, and staff members of NCAM who have worked with the local communities of Omdurman, El Obeid and Nyala. Thanks to Cambridge University's Dr Marie Louise Sorenson, and Prof. Paul Lane for their support, and J.E.Meharry who as a team member is assisting in the programmes, Dr Laurence Smith for collections management, and Dr Tim Reynolds for the studies on the Arkell Flints. British Council Protection Fund team, and Dr Zaki Aslan of ICCROM Athar. Dr Helen Mallinson for Project Management and Dr Katherine Ashley for Community engagement. Dr Marilyn Deegan of Kings College for involvement of the Sudan Memory Project

Text and images courtesy of Michael Mallinson (Director, mallinson ae)

Welcome to CHRC Visiting Scholar

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre is delighted to welcome **Eisuke Tanaka**, Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University as a Visiting Scholar. Mediterranean region of Turkey with a focus on roads and local footpaths', and will run until 2021.

Eisuke will be a visiting scholar at the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre and McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research from April 2019 to March 2020.

Following an MA in the Anthropology of Europe of Europe at the University of Sussex he completed a PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge before taking up his current position in the Department of Contemporary Cultures at Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University in Japan.

Eisuke's specializes in Socio-cultural Anthropology of the Mediterranean and Heritage Studies. His current research project, funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) is titled 'A social anthropological research on the development and transformation of tourism in the



Congratulations to Dr Susan Shay

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre offer our congratulations to **Susan Shay**, CHRC graduate member who awarded her PhD this week. These findings provide new understandings into how Indigenous heritage can be used as a means of Indigenous empowerment and develop a greater and more complex understanding of the uses of heritage for land control and

Susan's dissertation explores the use of heritage in land claim lawsuits and the role it plays in the construction of a modern Indigenous identity in Hawai'i. It uses Native Hawaiian efforts for land control in Hawai'i as a case study to explore how involvement in the legal process has impacted both Indigenous identity and heritage.

Hawai'i was once an independent Indigenous sovereign island nation with a distinctive culture, history, and legislative past. The laws of the modern state of Hawai'i reflect that history as Indigenous heritage has been integrated into state law. However, during the last forty years the laws protecting Native Hawaiian rights have been challenged in Hawai'i through a series of significant land claim lawsuits. Native Hawaiian struggles for sovereignty are based on the assertion of their heritage rights in lawsuits.



EVENTS

CHRC Heritage Research Seminar

Thursday, 25 April, 1pm

"White South Africans learning African languages:
reconceptualising heritage language learning in post-
apartheid South Africa"

Michael James

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education,
University of Cambridge

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological
Research, Cambridge

CHRC Heritage Research Seminar

Thursday, 16 April, 1pm

"Title to be confirmed"

Dr Joanna Michlic

Honorary Senior Research Associate,
University College London

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological
Research, Cambridge

2nd Annual Heritage Lecture

Tuesday 7 May, 5pm

"Language as Heritage: indigenous language resurgence
in the 21st Century"

Professor Mark Turin

Associate Professor of Anthropology and First Nation
Languages,
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Frankopan Hall, Jesus College,
Cambridge

20th Cambridge Heritage Symposium

Friday 10 - Saturday 11 May

"The Heritage of Food: cooking identities & tasting
memories"

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological
Research, Cambridge

Details of future CHRC Events can be found on the CHRC website:

<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/events>

You can send notices of events of interest to subscribers to heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk for inclusion
in the fortnightly bulletin.

EVENTS



Cambridge Heritage Research Centre

White South Africans learning African languages: reconceptualising heritage language learning in post-apartheid South Africa

From the inception of colonial settlement in South Africa, a small minority of white Europeans, from Dutch trekboers to English bishops, have fluently learnt an African language like isiXhosa or isiZulu. These languages, typically acquired through missionary zeal, agrarian necessity, commercial opportunity, and/or political expedience, were occasionally passed down to the next generation. The cultural and linguistic ramifications of apartheid, however, prevented such linguistic inheritance from coalescing into a distinctively white-but-African linguistic heritage: consider how Black South African English (BSAE) is an established sociolinguistic phenomenon, while the term 'White South African isiXhosa' (WSAX?) lacks meaningful reference. Despite this, the advent of post-apartheid South Africa -- a country re-founded upon multiracial, reconciliatory ideals and the desire to forge a new, inclusive national heritage -- raises the possibility of African languages being conceptualised as heritage languages of white South Africans, and being learnt as such.

Michael James

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

Thursday 25 April, 1-2pm

Seminar Room, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Site

EVENTS



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages



2019 Annual Heritage Lecture

hosted by the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre



by [Alanah Heffez](#) on [Flickr](#)

Language as Heritage

Indigenous Language Resurgence in the 21st Century

Prof. Mark Turin

*Associate Professor of Anthropology and First Nation Languages
University of British Columbia, Vancouver*

5:00 - 6:00pm, Tuesday 7 May 2019

*Venue: Frankopan Hall, Jesus College, Cambridge
Free Admission. To book visit: <https://bit.ly/2BxGmVy>*

EVENTS

THE CAMBRIDGE HERITAGE RESEARCH CENTRE PRESENTS
20TH CAMBRIDGE HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

Cooking Identities & Tasting Memories: THE HERITAGE OF FOOD

MCDONALD INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

10-11 May 2019

In addition to its necessity for life, food serves as an unparalleled means through which to study the formation of identity within and between sociocultural groups. Food and foodways transcend cultural and religious barriers, since the movement of foodstuffs and dishes has long been accompanied with the movement of people. Yet, all the while, food as heritage can be particular to a specific culture or event and is now commonly ascribed as official heritage, associated with *terroir* and certain modes of practice in a specific geographic location. This symposium aims at an interdisciplinary exploration of the role of tangible ingredients and foodstuffs or intangible foodways as cultural heritage at the personal, group and global levels through space and time.

The CHRC is honored to invite the following Keynote Speakers:
Dr Emma-Jayne Abbots, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David
Professor Cristina Grasseni, University of Leiden
Dr Raúl Matta, Taylor's University, Malaysia

Registration open until 25 April 2019

Register at <https://bit.ly/2TkW45o>

VISIT WWW.HERITAGE.ARCH.CAM.AC.UK/EVENTS/CHS20 FOR MORE INFORMATION



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AND SOCIETY



McDonald Institute
for Archaeological
Research

OPPORTUNITIES

Research Fellow, Centre for Archaeology and Heritage

**University of East Anglia - Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
Norwich**

**Salary: £42,036 to £48,677 per annum
Closing date: 7th May 2019**

The post holder will work closely with Professor Simon Kaner at the Institute's Centre for Archaeology and Heritage. The post is aimed at someone with both significant research experience and demonstrable abilities of project management.

Applicants will hold a doctorate in archaeology and will ideally have prior post-doctoral experience. Significant

knowledge and experience of archaeology and heritage management in particular is essential. Interest in Japanese archaeology is also essential. Experience of having worked in Japan is highly desirable, as is prior experience in the development and direction of major archaeology projects.

The post is available from 17 June 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter, on a full-time, indefinite basis.

URL: <http://sainsbury-institute.org/fellowships/>

Learning Inclusion Coordinator

**The Fitzwilliam Museum
UK, England, Cambridge**

Job Type: Part Time (0.4FTE)

Contract Type: Fixed term (until 31st March 2021)

Salary: £28,660 - £34,189 (pro-rata)

Closing Date: 22nd April 2019 at 12 Midnight

This role will co-ordinate a key strand within our inclusion programme as part of an exciting new project exploring how museums can play a part in tackling loneliness among older adults, a key aspect of which is the extension of our innovative programme, Dance at the Museum. We believe our museums can impact positively on people's wellbeing through programmes building social connections, developing a sense of belonging, and supporting people to participate in the wider cultural life of the city and region. We are committed to creating impactful programmes that realise this potential, and are looking for an individual who shares this belief and commitment, to co-ordinate this exciting and challenging area of work.

As well as delivery and co-ordination of activities, the role contributes to evaluation and research in relation to the programme area and sharing and disseminating practice, supporting our sector leadership responsibilities.

Please note that this post is 2 full days per week, one of which will be a Wednesday. The other day will be agreed at the time of appointment.

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'apply online' button on the advert published on the university's Job Opportunities pages: www.jobs.cam.ac.uk. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form. Expected Date of Interviews: Wednesday 1st May 2019. Please make sure you can be available for interview in Cambridge on any day during that period.

Any queries should be directed to recruitment@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 764840.

URL: <https://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/jobs/learning-inclusion-co-ordinator-part-time-fixed-term>

OPPORTUNITIES

British Collecting in Ethiopia 1769–1960: Explorers, Missionaries, Military Expeditions, and Royal Gifting

Closing date: 13 May 2019 at 17:00.

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded studentship at the University of St Andrews and National Museums Scotland.

As part of wider British interest in Ethiopia, Scotland has a long history of collecting Ethiopian material culture: from the first British person to visit Ethiopia, the Scottish explorer and collector, James Bruce of Kinnaird (1730–94), to the British military punitive expedition to Magdala (1867–1868), which included the Cameronian Scottish Rifles and resulted in significant looting of objects, many of which returned with Scottish soldiers and officers.

Focusing on National Museums Scotland's Ethiopian collection, this PhD will investigate British 'colonial' collecting in Ethiopia, and Scotland's prominent role within this wider context. The project aims to use objects to deepen understanding of Britain's colonial era relationships with an ostensibly non-colonised country, Ethiopia. In so doing, it will help to reveal the entanglement of gifting, collecting and diplomacy in the modern world.

URL: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/collections-research/research-opportunities/collaborative-doctoral-partnership-opportunities/british-collecting-in-ethiopia/>

Resilience Project Coordinator

World Heritage UK
Job Type: Contract
Contract Type: Fixed term (18 months)
Salary: £30,000
Closing Date: Friday 26 April 2019

World Heritage UK is a young, modern and agile charitable organisation with a bright future and a big challenge. Following establishment in 2015 to undertake networking, advocacy and promotion on behalf of all of the UK's World Heritage Sites, it has become widely recognised for its value and potential at both a national and local level and stands poised ready to extend its influence.

The post is challenging but is exceptional. You will experience the icons of the UK's cultural and natural heritage, all outstanding and unique assets. You will work with a large number of stakeholders, site managers, volunteers, politicians and legislators in creating a business development plan to transform the organisation over the next 3 to 5 years.

Your role will be to assist in the development of strategies for business development, fund-raising, marketing, communication and education by using consultant support and knowledge within the organisation.

Place of Employment is flexible - home or office based and could include remote/home working; or work space may be available in one of World Heritage UK's member offices in a World Heritage Site.

The hours of work, terms of employment and location are flexible with a capped total of £30,000 pa remuneration fixed, but time allocation flexible as defined by the goals and tasks. The applicant should present their outline proposal with the application in terms of working hours, working methods and preferred location (home or one of the UK World Heritage sites). It is envisaged that the role will require flexible working and travel within the UK and could suit a wide range of individuals with suitable backgrounds and time available.

The successful candidate will be a self-starter, strongly motivated and with a proven track record in business development and exceptional communication skills. An understanding of culture and heritage is desirable. Application should be by letter explaining suitability for the post with full CV please to the World Heritage UK Development Director chris.mahon@worldheritageuk.org

URL: <https://worldheritageuk.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/whuk-resilience-project-coordinator-job-description-final.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

AHRC Heritage Consortium Masters Studentship

Closing date: 20th May 2019

Are you looking for the next step after graduation, or uncertain how to develop the skills which employers are searching for? A Masters degree from the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, University of Bradford, will prepare you for real-world employment, enhance practical and scientific skills, and involve you in cutting-edge research.

The University of Bradford is delighted to announce the AHRC Heritage Consortium Masters Studentship. This studentship will provide funding to a high quality applicant. The funding will allow you to focus on developing high level skills and competencies for research and professional practice, particularly aimed at the Heritage sector. The studentship, valued at £8,933*, will cover the course fee and provide a maintenance award. The award can be used to fund a place on any of our Masters programmes.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the studentship you must have a minimum of an upper second class honours degree or above. The award is aligned to standard wording in the AHRC student funding guide. Students from EU countries other than the UK would be restricted to tuition fees only and no maintenance award. Non-EU students are not eligible for this funding. Please note, in order to be considered for a studentship you must first apply to the University for admission to an appropriate programme of study.

Applicable Course

- The studentship can be used to study for any of our Masters courses listed below:
- MA in Archaeology & Identity
- MSc in Archaeological Sciences
- MSc in Human Osteology and Palaeopathology
- MSc in Forensic Archaeology and Crime Scene Investigation
- MSc in Landscape Archaeology and Digital Heritage

How to apply

Applicants must first apply to the University for admission to the appropriate programme of study, and complete an application form which includes a statement which summarises relevant experience and interest in the subject.

Download the application form:

AHRC Heritage Consortium Masters Studentship

In your application form, please provide details of your undergraduate degree award and identify the programme of study you wish to take, providing a clear case for support (max 500 words) for the funding that you are applying for. Please pay particular attention to how the studentship would help you to realise your career goals. Ensure you have given careful thought as to how you would envisage conducting dissertation research that would contribute to the Heritage theme.

Please return the application form to FOLSArchSci@bradford.ac.uk.

For further information email scholarships@bradford.ac.uk.

URL: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/scholarships/info/ahrc-heritage-consortium-masters-scholarship-2019>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Borderlands and Contact Zones in Ukraine and the Black Sea Region

Annual Conference of the “Ukrainian Regionalism: A Research Platform” Network
11-14 September 2019 Vinnytsia, Ukraine
Closing date: 30 April, 2019.

The Transcultural Contact Zones project brings together an international and interdisciplinary research team for the annual meeting in Ukraine. Coordinated by the University of St.Gallen (HSG) in Switzerland, the project is focused on the concept of transculturality by way of examining regionalism in Ukraine through various methodologies. Affiliated researchers include historians, sociologists, anthropologists, economists, literary scholars, and linguists from Ukraine, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Russia, Germany, Romania, and the U.S. Please visit the project website from more information on hitherto project activities. Mary Louise Pratt defined the concept of contact zones in relation to post-colonial Studies as social arenas in which cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other within spaces of asymmetrical power relations. The Transcultural Contact Zones project applies this concept to the heterogeneous cultural and social phenomena of Ukrainian regionalism. Contact zones in Ukraine might be described as dynamic cultural spaces that go beyond national narratives to encompass current processes of renegotiating identity, history, and belonging.

The thematic scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to:

- Case studies of borderlands and regionalism in Ukraine and the Black Sea region
- Transcultural history and heritage of borderlands
- Neighborhood relations, everyday diplomacy, and patterns of othering

- Imperial and socialist legacies
- Multiple identities and polyphonal belongings
- History of nation-building vs. local subcultures
- Instrumentalization of the past and formation of collective memories
- Language and literature as a form of contact zones
- Religion and secularization in the public sphere
- Economy, mobilities, and migration
- Shifting contact zones: military conflict, refugees and IDPs
- Post-conflict societies and reconciliation strategies

How to apply

We invite sociologists, historians, anthropologists, economists, geographers, political scientists, and academics from related disciplines to apply for the conference. We are looking forward to receiving applications from scholars who work with the framework of transculturality. Proposals from academics working on Ukraine, East-Central Europe, and the Black Sea region are particularly welcome. The conference committee invites early stage, as well as advanced researchers. A special workshop session for Ph.D. students will be organized in frames of the conference. The working language of the conference is English.

To apply, please send the following documents:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. A 300 to 500-word conference abstract

Please send application materials to uaregio@gmail.com

All travel expenses, accommodation, and meals are covered by the conference committee.

URL: <http://www.uaregio.org/en/outreach/conference-presentations/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Striking Back? On Imperial Fantasies and Fantasies of Empire

**Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious
and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen
Germany, 12-13 September 2019
Closing date: 1 May 2019**

Since the turn of the century, empire as a concept, an object of research and a target of political critique has experienced a dramatic renaissance—"empire" seems to be expanding, as it is wont to do. It has inspired Marxist manifestoes (Hardt and Negri 2000; Harvey 2003), reanimated postcolonial critique (Mehta 1999; Stoler 2016), and fueled innovative imperial histories (Barkey 2008; Judson 2016; Kivelson and Suny 2016; Daughton 2006). In the vexatious time of Brexit, apologies for imperialism have also increased in frequency and volume (Ferguson 2018). In short, "empire" is a predominant political fantasy of our day and age. With this backdrop in mind, we invite proposals for our interdisciplinary, exploratory conference, *Striking Back? On Imperial Fantasies and Fantasies of Empire*. We seek contributions from political theorists, anthropologists, historians, sociologists, and sundry interrogators of colonialism and imperialism that speak to two broad questions and themes. First, how are we to understand imperial fantasies as inherent to the political formations of empires, both in the present and in the past? Secondly, what political, social and semiotic lives are lived by fantasies of empire?

On a conceptual plane, we aspire to mediate productively between the two dominant currents of theorization about fantasy: the Marxian and the psychoanalytic. From Marx and his legatees, we take the fundamental lesson that, in the time of capital, commodity fetishism, and the relations of production they entail, the real is itself fantastical." (Miéville 2002: 42). From Freud, Lacan, and their interpreters, we inherit a notion of fantasy as inherent to the making and breaking of realities. Rather than an escape from reality or a supplement to the real, fantasy, as Lauren Berlant has mused, animates "the unconscious continuities we project that allow us to trust the world enough to test it and change ourselves" (Manning and Berlant 2018). In this spirit, we heed China Miéville's call for a "notion of fantasy as embedding potential transformation and emancipation in human thinking" (2002: 46). Furthermore, we contend

that this project entails explicit attention to the constitutive doubleness of fantasy as a mode of power and as a genre of speculation about this power.

Concomitantly, we also aim to shed new light on empire as a persistent theme in the literary and filmic genre of fantasy. From H. G. Wells' marauding Martians to the Death Star's depredations, works of science fiction and fantasy have thematised imperialism with incisive verve. Two general questions follow: What can we learn about the means and ends of imperial power from fictional fantasies about empire(s)? and, How are the genres of fantasy and science fiction themselves entangled with imperialist projects and worldviews?

Finally, we also seek submissions that explicitly draw out the relationships between imperial fantasies and other, competing and converging fantasies of the political. How do imperial fantasies and nationalist fantasies conflict and collaborate? What fantasies undergird the resurgence of toxic populism and its affects, and how do they relate to empire? How often is "empire" in the eye of the beholder, as easily clothed in the costumes of a neofascist as a neoliberal? Who is wearing empire's new clothes (Murphy 2018)?

Conference participants will be provided with lodging and will be reimbursed for their travel (up to 350 € within Europe and € 800 for intercontinental travel). Please send abstracts of 250 words, along with a brief academic biography, to Marina Cziesielsky at Cziesielsky@mmg.mpg.de. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have further questions.

Further information is available at <http://www.mmg.mpg.de/departments/max-planck-research-group-empires-of-memory/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Medievalism between East and West

University of Turku, Finland

26-27 September 2019

Extended deadline for proposals 15 April 2019

The imagination of the Middle Ages runs wild on the internet. From popular history to pseudohistorical conspiracy theories, from gaming culture to memes, the medieval inspires the present. The study of medievalism is now a well-established field of study, but scholars rarely venture beyond American and Western European cultural sphere.

The conference Medievalism between East and West explores medievalism, pseudo-history and history politics in Northern Europe and Russia. The conference has an emphasis on Finland and Russia but welcomes papers treating its themes in all geographical areas.

Although a small Nordic nation, Finland is an illuminating case of contemporary medievalism: the Middle Ages is not a part of main-stream history politics, but in recent years internet subcultures have developed blooming, mostly nationalistic discussions that challenge scholarly interpretations of history with visions of mighty early medieval kingdoms. Since 2015, the anti-immigrant movement in Finland created a particular case of medievalism as some street patrols banded under the organisation “Soldiers of Odin”. In terms of medievalism, Finland stands in the border of East and West, sharing much of its medieval history with its Slavic neighbours. Finnish popular culture and consequently most of the medievalist influences, however, are predominantly Western.

In Russia, the medieval past is much more prominent in official history politics than in most Western European countries. Both the Russian state and the Orthodox Church in Russia look back to their more than one thousand years of history – both real and imagined. Alongside the established historical understanding, also Russian internet discussions feature pseudo-historical imaginations of a forgotten era of a glorious Slavic empire.

The organisers invite paper proposals for a number of themes relating to the topic, for example:

- medievalist pseudo-histories
- medievalist myths of origins
- internet medievalism
- the Middle Ages in state history politics
- medievalism and 21st-century nationalism
- medievalism and political extremism
- methods and theories in the study of medievalism
- digital humanities and medievalism

The abstract should be max. 400 words long and be accompanied by a short CV (max. 1 page). The deadline for proposals is 15 April 2019. Proposals and inquiries about the conference should be sent to the address [pseudohistoria \[at\] utu.fi](mailto:pseudohistoria[at]utu.fi)

The conference is organised by the research project The Ancient Finnish Kings: a computational study of pseudohistory, medievalism and history politics in contemporary Finland and Russia (funded by the Emil Aaltonen Foundation), in co-operation with Turku Institute for Advanced Studies.

URL: <https://sites.utu.fi/pseudohistoria/news/cfp-medievalism-between-east-and-west-september-2019/>

CONTACT US



CONTRIBUTE

We would be especially interested in hearing from you about events and opportunities. Contributions in the form of short reviews of conferences, exhibitions, publications or other events/material that you have attended/read are also welcome. Please note that advertisements for any non-HRG events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

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Our Editors

Andrea Kocsis
On behalf of the Cambridge Heritage
Research Centre

Our Address

Downing Street
Cambridge
CB23DZ
United Kingdom

Phone: 01223-339291
E-mail: heritage@arch.cam.ac.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cambridgehrg
Instagram: www.instagram.com/cambridge_heritage/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/camb_heritage

Website: <https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/publications/bulletin>

