

CHEurope Second Joint Research Seminar

# Doing Critical Heritage: Issues, Methodologies, Challenges.

Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory  
and Material Culture, UvA  
16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January 2018



**CHEurope**  
critical heritage studies and the future of europe



## About the Joint Research Seminar 2

The Second Joint Research Seminar of the CHEurope project will be held in Amsterdam (16-19 January 2018) putting together academics and practitioners from the fields of heritage and museum studies. The question at the center of this JRS is, What does it mean to 'do' critical heritage today? Together with the invited speakers, we will reflect on the issues and challenges related to studying and producing heritage, as well as which methodologies can best serve us during our research journey. The seminar is organized by the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM), a partner in the CHEurope research project and an active research institution in the field.

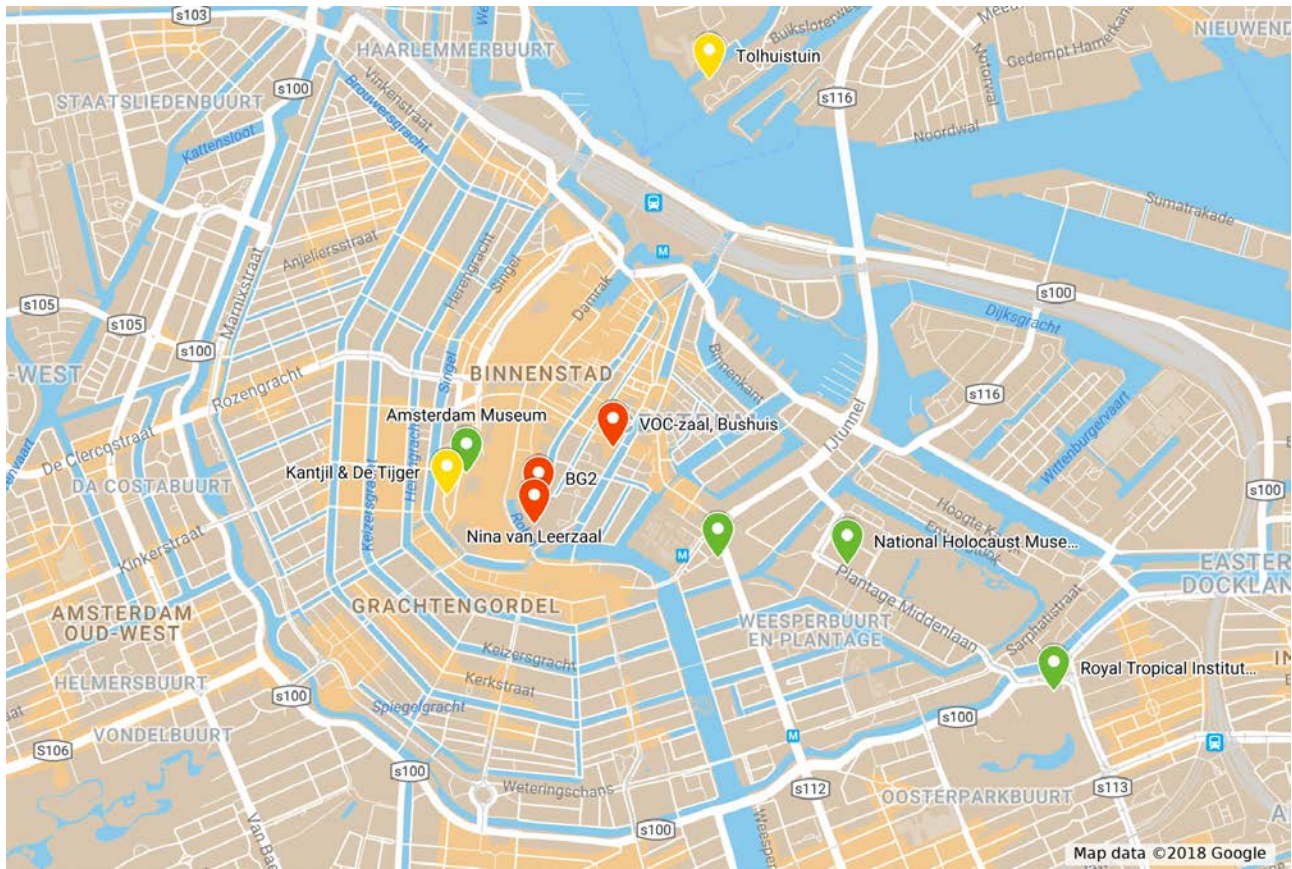
During the seminar, the CHEurope PhD candidates will attend a range of lectures, seminars, and panel discussions, and will visit a number of museums and heritage sites. Through these conversations, they will be exposed to key theories and methods in critical heritage studies, approached from diverse perspectives. On the 15th of January, the ESRs are invited to participate in the CoHERE meeting at the Tropenmuseum. CoHERE is an EU-funded Horizon2020 research project that explores the ways in which identities in Europe are constructed through heritage representations and performances that connect to ideas of place, history, tradition and belonging. In the following days, the ESRs will have the opportunity to talk about their research projects and particularly to discuss with the invited speakers the challenges they currently face.

We look forward to welcoming you in Amsterdam!

JRS2 Team



## Locations



[Click on this map to be linked to Google Maps](#)

### Museums:

#### Royal Tropical Institute

Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam  
[www.kit.nl](http://www.kit.nl)

#### Amsterdam Museum

Kalverstraat 92, 1012 PH  
[www.amsterdammuseum.nl](http://www.amsterdammuseum.nl)

#### Jewish Historical Museum

Nieuwe Amstelstraat 1, 1011 PL  
[www.jhm.nl](http://www.jhm.nl)

#### National Holocaust Museum

Plantage Middenlaan 27, 1018 DB  
[www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl](http://www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl)

### Restaurants:

#### Kantjil & de Tijger

Spuistraat 291 – 293, 1012 VS  
[www.kantjil.nl](http://www.kantjil.nl)

#### Tolhuistuin

Ijpromenade 2, 1031 KT  
[www.tolhuistuin.nl](http://www.tolhuistuin.nl)

### UvA Locations:

#### VOC-zaal

Kloveniersburgwal 48, 1012 CX

#### BG2

Turfdraagsterpad 15-17, 1012 XT

#### Nina van Leerzaal

Oude Turfmarkt 129, 1012 GC

**Public Transport:**

We recommend the website <http://maps.gvb.nl> for planning public transport. Most locations are in the centre of Amsterdam and easy to reach by foot, tram or metro. Tram 14 can be taken from Spui (by the University sites) or the Dam, and stops in front of the Jewish Historical Museum, National Holocaust Museum and the Tropen museum in the east of the city.

**Contact for Emergencies:**

In case of any emergencies or confusion feel free to contact Inge Molenaar (+31 631947112), Vittoria Caradonna (+31 655489590), or Nermin Elsherif (+31 06 55489585).

# Detailed Schedule:

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### Joining the CoHERE meeting

Location: Raadzaal at Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen  
Address: Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam

9.00 - 9.30

**Coffee Reception and Welcome**

9.30 – 11.00

**CoHERE WP Presentations (1)**

11.00 - 11.15

**Coffee Break**

11.15 - 12.45

**CoHERE WP Presentations (2)**

12.45-13.30

**Lunch**

13.30 -15.00

**CoHERE WP Presentations (3)**

15.00-15.15

**Coffee Break**

15.15-17.00

**Discussions and Feedback**

17.20- 17.35

**CEurope presentation**

# Note on Joining CoHERE meeting:

After attending the presentations of the CoHERE Work Packages (WP), the CHEurope group will meet as a working group to reflect on the ideas and themes discussed during the meeting, and to reflect on the challenges of doing research in critical heritage studies. We will have two tasks. The first is to provide a response, to look at “CoHERE from the outside”. The second is to relate what we have heard about CoHERE to our own research challenges. In particular, we will tackle two set of issues, which are very much at the center of our practice as young scholars:

## **1. How do we do interdisciplinary research?**

While interdisciplinarity is an established buzzword, how can we effectively think through different ways of knowing heritage, memory, and place across different theoretical frameworks and practices in order to make it work? What sort of expanded fields and linkages emerge from this type of thinking and how does it (or not) align with our research?

## **2. How do we deal with the ethical and political predicaments of ‘doing’ (both researching and in fact producing) ‘European’ heritage?**

When we connect critical heritages to the EU frame, what does it mean to do research that in such a complex political domain is always both a reflection and an intervention? How do we engage with the challenge of observing politics while being (if indirectly) part of it?

We will then have the opportunity to discuss some of our insights and reflections during a 10-minute presentation at the end of the day.

<https://research.ncl.ac.uk/cohere/>

## **Tuesday 16th January**

Location: Amsterdam Museum  
Address: Kalverstraat 92, 1012 PH

10.00 - 12.00

**Amsterdam Museum tour with curator Annemarie de Wildt**

12.00 -13.00

**Lunch at the Amsterdam Museum Café**

**Transfer to:** VOC Zaal, Bushuis  
Kloveniersburgwal 48, 1012CX

13.30 -15.00

**Keynote lecture**

Rob van Der Laarse on “Curating ghostly spaces: campscares and cities of loss”

15.00 -15.15

**Coffee Break**

15.15 -17.00

**Curating the Colonial, Panel Discussion**

With the researchers and curators Annemarie de Wildt, Simone Zeefuik, Wayne Modest and Sara Giannini, chaired by Chiara de Cesari, and followed by an open discussion

## **Wednesday 17th January**

Location: Jewish Historical Museum  
Address: Nieuwe Amstelstraat 1, 1011 PL

9.00 - 10.00

### **Coffee Reception**

10.00 - 11.45

### **Keynote Lecture**

Chris Whitehead on “Critical, Playful, Plural Heritages: Negotiating perspectives on urban memoryscapes”  
Response by Susannah Eckersley, followed by a discussion

11.45-12.00

### **Coffee Break**

12.00 - 13.00

### **ESR's Presentations and Feedback (1)**

Marcela Jaramillo Contreras (ISCITE-IUL-ESR1)  
Anne Beeksma (CSIC-ESR13)

13.00 -14.00

### **Lunch at the Jewish Historical Museum Café**

**Transfer to:** National Holocaust Museum  
Plantage Middenlaan 27, 1018 DB

14.00 – 15.00

### **ESR's Presentations and Feedback (2)**

Marcia Lika Hattori (CSIC-ESR14)  
Jana Oud Ammerveld (UCL-ESR2)  
Lukasz Bugalski (IBC-ESR5)

15.00 -15.45

### **Response by the discussants.**

15.45 -17.00

### **Guided tour of the National Holocaust Museum and Hollandsche Schouwburg**



## Thursday 18th January

Location: Nina van Leerzaal, Bijzondere Collecties  
Address: Oude Turfmarkt 129, 1012 GC

9.00 – 9.30

### **Coffee Reception**

9.30 – 12.30

### **Keynote Lecture**

Mieke Bal on “Shocking into Ec-stasy: How to Bring Art to Live (and its visitor with it). Mixing media, chronology, temporality, and material conditions”  
Response by Chiara de Cesari and Ihab Saloul followed by a discussion

12.30 – 13.30

### **Lunch at Bijzondere Collecties Café**

13.30 – 14.30

### **ESR's Presentations and Feedback (3)**

Vittoria Caradonna (UVA-ESR6)

Moniek Driesse (UGOT-ESR3)

Mela Zuljevic (UHASSELT-ESR4)

14.30 – 14.45

### **Coffee break**

14.45 -15.30

### **ESR's Presentations and Feedback (4)**

Khaled Ahmed (UGOT-ESR12)

Katie O'Donoghue (UCL-ESR11)

15.30-16.15

### **Response by the discussants**

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**Transfer to:** TAAK Art Center  
Tolhuisweg 2, 1031 Amsterdam (<http://taak.me/>)

17.30 – 19.30

**Movie Screening**

Julieta Garcia Vazquez's "I Is Somebody Else"

**Curating the City, Panel discussion**

With practitioners and researchers Theo Tegelaers (TAAK), Francesca Lanz (Politecnico di Milano) and Marlous Willemsen (Imagine IC), chair: Chiara de Cesari

19.30 – 20.00

**Drinks**

20.15 – ...

**Dinner at Tolhuistuin Restaurant**

## Friday 19th January

Location: BG2, UvA

Address: Turfdraagsterpad 15-17, 1012 XT

9.00 – 9.30

**Coffee reception**

9.30 – 11.15

**Keynote Lecture**

Haidy Geismar on “Five ways to think about Digital Cultural Heritage”

Response by Robin Boast followed by a discussion

11.15 – 13.30

**Black Heritage Boat Tour with lunch**

Meeting Point at Dam Square (<http://www.blackheritagetours.com/>)

13.30 – 14.30

**ESR's Presentations and Feedback (5)**

Nermin el-Sherif (UVA-ESR15)

Hannah Smyth (UCL-ESR8)

Carlotta Capurro (UUTRECHT-ESR10)

14.30 – 14.45

**Coffee Break**

14.45 – 15.30

**ESR's Presentations and Feedback (6)**

William Illsley (UGOT-ESR9)

Nevena Markovic (CSIC-ESR7)

15.30 – 16.30

**Response by the discussants and final discussion with Kristian Kristiansen**

16.30 – 17.30

**Research council meeting and ESRs debriefing with the project's coordination**

20.00 – ...

**Farewell Dinner at Kantjil & de Tijger**

# Abstracts

## Chris Whitehead

### **Keynote lecture: “Critical, Playful, Plural Heritages: Negotiating perspectives on urban memoryscapes”**

In this talk I outline some interrelated methodological, theoretical and political dimensions of engaging with a high-profile urban memoryscape that has different meanings for different groups. The Land Walls of Istanbul extend around six kilometres across the peninsula, defining the ancient rear perimeter of Constantinople, and they occupy a complex and contradictory space in the life of the city, as an official symbol of national glory for some, and a reminder of defeat, loss and occupation for others. Alongside a continuous Greek, Jewish and Armenian presence in the neighbourhoods around the Walls, there are a variety of other communities who live in the shadow and shelter of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, including people from Syria and parts of the Arab world, Roma, farmers and many homeless people. Forced displacement has also configured this memoryscape, which extends beyond the physical environs to different diasporic settings, because of histories of violence, persecution, social tension and gentrification. How can we experience, traverse, read, rethink, and perhaps represent this complex, distributed memoryscape? What might this mean for museum and heritage practice, but also for urban and displaced communities who live with memory?

In the ‘Plural Heritages of Istanbul’ project, we began by mapping the different meanings of the Walls across communities and in public culture. This was to gain a sense of the relations between ‘from-above’ and ‘from-below’ perspectives and to use explorations of plurality as a vehicle of criticality – not to present a ‘correct’ view of the Walls but to constructively complicate its memory cultures. The research is also concerned to make community-co-produced interpretive interventions in this memoryscape. As the project has evolved collaboratively with communities, our approaches have become playful and creative as well as critical, even if the seriousness of memory is always evident. I discuss the politics of this and the theoretical, methodological and technical experiments it has involved, involving walking ethnography, GIS, photography, reminiscence, cultural probes and creative engagements. When thinking of a ‘Critical Heritage Studies’, whom or what should we be critical about, when and why? What space is there for criticality in practical interventions into public culture? Thirdly, what space is there for playfulness and creativity as forms of research?

## Mieke Bal

### **Keynote Lecture; “Shocking into Ec-stasy: How to Bring Art to Live (and its visitor with it). Mixing media, chronology, temporality, and material conditions”**

Shocking is not an experience in itself. It is the shock of unexpected visions that renews complacency in the face of repeated traditional ways of working. I seek to propose some constructive interventions that, according to my experience, make a difference in the relation between art and the public, and are within the possibilities of most if not all museums. Mixing up chronology, mixing artists and media, and radically change museum culture in the very practical sense of display: height of hanging, wall texts and captions, and most crucially, seating. Mixing modes of being with art, that is. I got the opportunity to do so when I was invited to curate an exhibition at the Munch Museum in Oslo, for Spring 2017, that was to include my video installation *Madame B*. The first principle is that looking at art *requires time*; and that in current museum practice, with, with luck, one bench in the middle of a large gallery for a bit of rest far from the artworks, this factor is entirely neglected. Connections across the borders of the fields, specializations and disciplines inevitably invoke the term “interdisciplinary”. This is my starting point in the reflection I will offer on curating based on shaking up visitors and bringing them closer to the ec-centric, or ec-static experience of art.

## Rob van der Laarse

### **Keynote Lecture: “Curating ghostly spaces: camps and cities of loss”**

One of the problems of urban memories is that urban citizens today hardly share memories of their present environments. Cities have always attracted migrants with a past rooted in the countryside, other countries and colonies, whereas because of wars, population exchanges and border changes today's residents often hardly share a common past. Thus the present residents of the Ukrainian city Lviv have almost no memory of the pre-war Polish-Jewish city of Lvov, notwithstanding its touristic self-image as an old, Habsburg, multicultural city. This raises the question how in such dynamic, contested urban contexts notions of the past are related to competing memories and heritagization. My keynote will focus however on the present curating of European ‘cities without Jews’ marked by a heritage of loss and a ghostly reoccurrence of Jewish pasts in a new multicultural context of postcolonialism and migration, Europeanisation, city marketing, the return of populism, and post-Cold War politics of identity, and its complex connection to the post-1989 Holocaust memory boom, or more specific to the representation of symbolic *exclusion* and virtual *return* in urban memory culture and memorial camps. As camps were designed to fade away in Europe's landscapes after the Final Solution, we might wonder what their present preservation and re-enacting as Holocaust icons means for urban memory and the notion of absence. I will try to some of such ontological aspects of the urban-landscape or city-countryside nexus which, closely related to older mental divisions of culture and nature, might reveal some unexpected spatial divisions in Holocaust memory culture

## **Haidy Geismar**

### **Keynote Lecture: “Five ways to think about Digital Cultural Heritage”**

In this keynote, I present five frameworks for understanding digital collections, using them to develop a methodological and conceptual framework to advance our understanding of this complex social, technical, political and material field. By challenging our assumptions about the nature of the digital, locating it in previous histories of collection and previous discourses of materiality, we can better explore the transformations effected by digital media on our understanding of the past in the present.



# Bios of Speakers:



## **Mieke Bal**

Professor of Theory of Literature and a founding director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA). Her research interests include biblical and classical antiquity, seventeenth-century and modern art, contemporary literature, feminism, mental illness, and migratory culture.  
[www.miekebal.org](http://www.miekebal.org)



## **Robin Boast**

Professor of Cultural Information Science and co-head, of the BA and MA in CIW-Cultural Information Science (CIW) in the department of Media and culture, Faculty of Humanities, UvA. His research explores forms of informed, collaborative and critical access to museum spaces and collections.  
<http://www.uva.nl/profiel/b/o/r.boast/r.boast.html>



## **Chiara De Cesari**

Anthropologist and assistant professor with a double appointment in European Studies and in Cultural Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Her research interests lie at the intersection of cultural memory, transnationalism and current transformations of the nation-state.  
<http://www.uva.nl/profiel/c/e/c.decesari/c.decesari.html>



## **Susannah Eckersley**

Lecturer in Museum, Gallery and Heritage Studies in the school of Arts and Culture, New Castle University, UK. Her interests are interdisciplinary and span the full breadth of what is understood as 'heritage'. All her interests encompass the wider issue of the relationship between heritage, culture and history and the state.  
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/staff/profile/susannaheckersley.html#background>



## **Haidy Geismar**

A social anthropologist with a research interests in intellectual and cultural property, indigenous rights, new forms of cultural representation, the anthropology of art, critical museology and the South Pacific. Currently the director of the Digital Anthropology programme at University College London.  
[http://www.haidygeismar.com/My\\_Professional\\_Webpage/Welcome.html](http://www.haidygeismar.com/My_Professional_Webpage/Welcome.html)



### **Sara Giannini**

Independent curator, researcher, writer and semiotician based in Amsterdam. Her interests lie in the intersection between performance, linguistic experimentation and disciplinary transvestism.

<https://dutchartinstitute.eu/page/10171/sara-giannini>



### **Rob van der Laarse**

Professor in Heritage and Memory of War and Conflict, and the research director of the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM) at UvA. His research focuses on cultural landscape, heritage and identity politics, the cultural roots and postwar memory of the Holocaust.

<http://www.uva.nl/profiel/l/a/r.vanderlaarse/r.vanderlaarse.html>



### **Francesca Lanz**

Lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of Politecnico di Milano. Her research interests include interior architecture, museum studies, and European Cultural Heritage.

<https://polimi.academia.edu/francescalanz>



### **Wayne Modest**

Head of the Research Center for Material Culture, the research institute of the Tropenmuseum, Museum Volkenkunde and Africa Museum. He is also professor of Material Culture and Critical Heritage Studies at the VU University Amsterdam.

<http://materialculture.nl/en/wayne-modest>



### **Ihab Saloul**

Associate Professor of Heritage and Memory Studies, Founding Director and Research Vice-Director of AHM. His interests include heritage and memory studies, conflict and identity politics, museum studies, cultural analysis, literary and narrative theory, postcolonialism and visual culture as well as migration, diaspora and exile.

<http://www.uva.nl/profiel/s/a/i.a.m.saloul/i.a.m.saloul.html>



### **Theo Tegelaers**

Partner and curator at TAAK. He was senior curator at SKOR | Foundation for Art and Public Domain from 2006 until 2012. It was in 2012 that he took initiative to found TAAK.

[http://taak.me/?page\\_id=7&lang=en](http://taak.me/?page_id=7&lang=en)



### **Chris Whitehead**

Professor of Museology in the school of Arts and Culture, New Castle University, UK. His research focuses on cultural politics of memory, display, knowledge construction, interpretation, the political uses of the past, time and place and contested histories.

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/staff/profile/chriswhitehead.html#background>



### **Annemarie de Wildt**

Curator in the Amsterdam Museum. She curated exhibitions on a great variety of subjects, with a variety of objects, often a mix of 'high' and 'low' culture and with a strong input of human stories. Her exhibitions included themes of prostitution, pregnancy and birth, sailor tattoos, the colony of artists Ruigoord and local shops.

<http://hart.amsterdammuseum.nl/11628/nl/annemarie-de-wildt>



### **Marlous Willemsen**

Director of Imagine IC: an archive, a museum and an intangible heritage platform in Amsterdam-Zuidoost about daily life in the big city of today. Her interests lie at the intersection of archives, museums, and participatory documenting.

<http://www.imagineic.nl/content/team>



### **Simone Zeefuik**

Amsterdam based writer and organizer whose work focuses on imagery, representation, anti-Blackness, (digital) archives and the illegalized members of the Black communities in the Netherlands.

<https://lazeefuik.com/>