

Centre for Critical Heritage Studies
Small Grants Scheme
Final Report

Project: Living through heritage: a forum on participation, performativity, and care

Applicant(s): Helia Marcal, UCL

Award: £2000.00

Project dates: 1/2/2021 to 31/3/2021

Summary: (200-250 words): This project took the shape of an online conference called '[Heritage, Participation, Performativity, Care](#)'. Aimed at contributing to the expansion of the field of conservation, this project was successful in creating a safe space for conservation to contest long-accepted boundaries between official and non-official heritage. The invited speakers provided different and complementary approaches to issues of neglect, care, and the positionality of conservation. They discussed cultures of displacement and reform in relation to geographies of care in Latin America, Australia, Africa, and Europe. This project was also successful in achieving the recognition of critical approaches to conservation as a priority area of studies that intersects the practice of heritage making with critical discourses about the role of heritage in the public sphere. The critical mass of scholars, interested parties, stakeholders, carers that were present in this conference will serve as a force for displacing conservation discourse and to acknowledge theories and practices emerging from the Global South in heritage and collection care scholarship. With that intention, a network was created and new, diffractive, and recentred, initiatives will be fostered from inside of this network.

Details of achievements against objectives:

We were successful in creating a space for discussing the aims of conservation and how all stakeholders participate in the process of making conservation and vice-versa. Within the proposed outcomes, we discussed finding ways to apply to an AHRC Networking Grant, for which this project was a steppingstone, and we've also rehearsed potential opportunities for publication. It was considered that a publication could be precocious at this stage, and that we would revisit this possibility later on this year. [The videos of the conference were](#), however, published online, providing an important resource for scholars, students, and the general public, and serving as a testimony of a generous dialogues with people from various backgrounds and perspectives.

Future dissemination plans:

We are still inclined to do a publication, but, potentially, as a book. We will start to approach publishers by the end of the year.

Any income from other sources: £0