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CCHS NEWS Gothenburg and London

From church thefts to the end of the world in this autumn's Inside the Box

14 October 2021

The podcast that the University of Gothenburg produces together with the Museum of World Culture is back this autumn. Researchers will meet, among others, the author Mats Strandberg and a police officer. – We will discuss everything from propaganda through history, the end of the world, to how cultural heritage in Swedish churches are threatened, says Jenny Högström Berntson, producer Inside the Box.

To have initiated and stimulating conversations that revolve around current cultural heritage research, history, future and the present. That was the goal when the university and the Museum of World Culture joined forces on a podcast. Although the pandemic forced the podcast into the studio instead of with a live audience, it has been a success.

Now the podcast is back with new episodes.

– The author Mats Strandberg joins us to discuss ideas of the end of the world in literature and popular fiction with Yvonne Leffler, professor of literature here at the university. It will be great, says Jenny Högström Berntson.



Mats Strandberg has written several best-selling horror and youth novels that have been translated into 30 languages. Many of them are about doom in different ways, this autumn he will be a guest at the university's podcast "Inside the Box." Photo: Henric Lindsten/press photo

Meetings between researchers from completely different fields of expertise are central to the podcast.

– We try to get interdisciplinary research meetings. As in the episode "Kultur för hälsans skull", where a literary scholar meet a researcher from AgeCap (which is the university's research center for aging and

health). In that episode the positive impact of culture and cultural activities on health is discussed from two very different, but complementary, perspectives.

The podcast aims to stimulate interest in cultural heritage research and museum objects and is intended for the general public. This autumn the podcast will be visited by a police officer specialized in cultural heritage crimes, who, together with a church historian, will talk about cultural heritage in churches.

Guests from all over the world

– When the pandemic struck we had to change from recording the podcast with live audience to recording in a studio, often over link. This made the step to produce episodes featuring guests from different parts of the world easier.

– If you want to listen to an English episode, I suggest “Endangered heritage and illicit trade” (episode 16) where the object in our box really came into its own in the conversation, says Jenny Högström Berntson. The topic is also very relevant and it captured many important issues both in a Swedish and an international perspective.

The podcast has been visited by several well-known people such as the comedian Ina Lundström known from the podcast "Flashback Forever", the science journalist Karin Bojs and Richard Tellström, expert on food history and heritage.

Now the podcast team hopes to be able to return to the initial setup with recording the podcast with a live audience at the Museum of World Culture for the next season.

– We want to give listeners a mixture of interesting subjects and an easily accessible format. We hope that the podcast form is a good way to reach a wide audience and make our research available for a broad public, says Jenny Högström Berntson.

By: [Cecilia Sjöberg](#)

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Facts and links:

Inside the Box is produced by the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies (CCHS), and the Museum of World Culture, in collaboration with Folkuniversitetet.

[Listen to the podcast on Acast \(external link\)](#)

[Link to the episode “Endangered heritage and illicit trade” on Acast \(external link\)](#)

[More about Inside the Box and episodes in English](#)

More about [the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies \(CCHS\)](#)



The mystery of when the first horse was tamed is solved

20 October 2021



Where were modern horses first domesticated? And when did they take over the rest of the world and supplant all the other types of horses that had existed in the past? A long-standing archaeological mystery has been solved thanks to a large international team of researchers.

“DNA studies of domesticated animals can make as important a contribution to our knowledge of prehistory as human DNA,” says Kristian Kristiansen, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Gothenburg and Deputy Director Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, who contributed to the study published in Nature.

Kristian Kristiansen. Photo: Johan Wingborg

It was on the Pontic–Caspian steppe of North Caucasus that horses were first tamed and then took over the rest of Eurasia within a few centuries. This has been shown by an international study led by palaeogeneticist Ludovic Orlando at the French research organization CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique). The study has solved a riddle that scientists have grappled with for decades and it required 162 specialists in archaeology, paleogenetics and linguistics from nearly 120 different research institutes.

A few years ago, Orlando’s research team were looking at the Botai site in Central Asia, which had provided the oldest archaeological evidence for domesticated horses. But something didn’t add up in the DNA results; these horses that lived 5500 years ago were not the ancestors of our modern domesticated horses.

The steppes of Central Asia, along with other areas such as Anatolia, Siberia and the Iberian Peninsula were crossed off the list as they also proved to not be where the domesticated horse originated.

This led the researchers to extend their study to encompass the whole of Eurasia. First they analysed the genomes of horses that lived between 50,000 and 200 years BCE and then compared this with the genome of modern domesticated horses. That produced a result.



Grave excavated at the archeological site of Alaas Ebé, in the Republic of Sacha (formerly Yakutia) in Russia. Photo: Eric CRUBEZY/CNRS Photothèque.

Supplanted all wild horse populations

Although Eurasia was once populated by genetically distinct horse populations, a dramatic change occurred between 2000 and 2200 BCE. During that period, a single genetic profile, previously limited to the Pontic–Caspian steppe (North Caucasus), began to spread outside its native area and supplant all the wild horse populations from the Atlantic to Mongolia within just a few centuries. The genetic data also indicate an explosive change in demographics that is unparalleled in the last 100,000 years.



Horse skull from an excavated grave at the archaeological site of Alaas Ebé, in the Republic of Sacha (Yakutia) in Russia. Photo: Eric CRUBEZY/CNRS Photothèque

It was then, some 4000 years ago, that mankind took control of horse reproduction and began to selectively breed them in large numbers.

The researchers found two striking differences between the genome of this horse and the genome of the populations it supplanted. One is linked to more docile behaviour and the other indicates a stronger spine. These differences might be some of the reasons for the success of the modern horse, the scientists believe.

Importance of incorporating animal history



Mongolian breeder who takes his horses home.

Photo: Ludovic Orlando/Natural History Museum of Denmark/AMIS/CNRS Photothèque

The study also reveals that the horse spread throughout Asia around the same time as horse-drawn chariots and Indo-Iranian languages. However, the migration of Indo-European populations from the steppes of Central Asia to Europe in the third millennium BCE cannot be due to these horses, because their domestication and spread came only later. This demonstrates the importance of incorporating animal history into the study of human migration and inter-cultural encounters.

“I contributed to the interpretation of the expansion of the domesticated horse in connection with the expansion of Bronze Age warfare using armoured chariots. The study emphasises two things. Firstly, that DNA studies of domesticated animals can make as important a contribution to our knowledge of prehistory as human DNA; and secondly, that the domesticated horse from around 4000 years ago has been the most important animal used for transport throughout history, right up to industrialisation, and that it contributed to the rise and fall of civilizations,” says Kristian Kristiansen, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Gothenburg, and one of the co-authors of the article ***The origins and spread of domestic horses from the Western Eurasian steppes*** published in *Nature*, 20 October.

Link to article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-04018-9>

The study was led by the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse, headed by CNRS research professor Ludovic Orlando, and primarily funded by the European Research Council (Pegasus project) and France Genomique (Bucephale project).

Text: Johanna Hillgren

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Autumnal Call for Application to CCHS Small Grants scheme

The UCL Centre for Critical Heritage Studies invites applications from **UCL Academic, Research and Teaching staff, postdoctoral staff, Honorary Associates and PhD students** to its Small Grants Scheme, which funds projects that lead to or support collaborative research between UCL and external partners or within different departments.



We particularly invite proposals that:

- involve collaboration between staff based in different UCL departments, and/or utilise cross-disciplinary approaches;
- aim to achieve research impact (through scholarly output, public engagement, influence on policy and practice, knowledge transfer or similar);
- aim to prepare the ground for new, extended research projects (including grant applications).

Please note that there is call for applications running at the same time but which is specifically in partnership with the National Trust (deadline extended to 17 December 2021).

Links

[Read and apply to the Autumnal CCHS Small Grants Scheme](#)

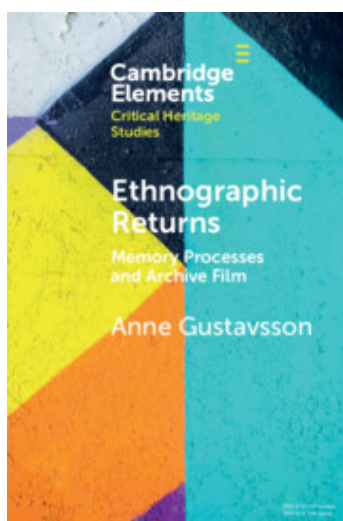
The autumnal Small Grants Scheme will be closed on the **21st of November 2021**.

[Read and apply to the CCHS Small Grants Scheme in partnership with the National Trust](#)

The Small Grants Scheme in partnership with the National Trust has now been extended to the **17th of December 2021**.

New book in the CUP Elements series on Critical Heritage Studies

CCHS are happy to announce yet another new publication within the Cambridge Elements series on Critical Heritage Studies!



Ethnographic Returns: Memory Processes and Archive Film by Anne Gustavsson

Summary: In the past decades cultural heritage stored at museums and archives has been returned to source communities in various forms and under diverse circumstances. This contribution to the Elements series explores and discusses specifically the return of digital 'ethnographic' images to indigenous and non indigenous people that share a common recent history of coexistence and dispute over the same territory that is to be understood in the light of the consolidation of a Nation State with a settler colonial logic. The author argues that the affective reception of what a given archive labels as tangible and intangible heritage varies according to each audience's particular memory practices, historical experience and way of relating to shared hegemonic notions of 'whiteness' and 'indigeneity'.

Series: [Elements in Critical Heritage Studies](#)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108914086>[\[Opens in a new window\]](#)

Online ISBN: 9781108914086. Publisher: Cambridge University Press

CCHS LECTURES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIUMS, CONFERENCES University of Gothenburg

Please find updated information about CCHS public events via our website and Facebook page.

[CCHS Gothenburg](#)

[CCHS Facebook](#)

Seminar series: Global Heritage Studies Research Group at School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg



Activities and events – Autumn 2021

November 12

12:00-13:00 Alida Payson, University of Cardiff: *Trash, treasure, welfare, pleasure: the everyday uses of secondhand charity shops*. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/1013919->

December 10

12:00-13:00 Ruy Blanes, School of Global Studies: TBA

January 24

12:00-13:00 Veera Kinnunen, University of Lapland: *On Multispecies Waste Care*.
<https://blogi.eoppimispaivelut.fi/intraliving/>

All events will take place via Zoom, 12.00-13.00. Email Staffan or Anna for Zoom-link.
Staffan Appelgren (staffan.appelgren@gu.se) or Anna Bohlin (anna.bohlin@gu.se).

Welcome!



Benin Bronzes, Restitution and Decolonisation of museums

Date: 24 November 2021

Time: 13:15 - 15:00

Place: Zoom

Dan Hicks (Professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford and Curator of World Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum): *Benin Bronzes, Restitution and Decolonisation of museums*.

The seminars are normally on zoom (links are distributed a few days before each seminar). Some seminars towards the end of the semester may be physical meetings at the department. Please email [Christian Isendahl](mailto:Christian.Isendahl@gu.se) or Cinthya Lana (cinthya.lana@gu.se) if you have any questions.

Organiser: Higher seminar in Archaeology, Dept of Historical studies, UGOT.

Heritage Fair 2021 (Forum Kulturary)

Welcome to the annual CCHS Heritage Academy "Heritage Fair 2021", November 8-9, 2021!

Venue: University of Gothenburg's main building, [Vasaparken](#), Gothenburg, Sweden.



Vasaparken, photo credit: Johan Wingborg

November 8 - The exhibitions and conference open at 13.00

- 13.30- 14.30 Cultural Heritage and Politics
 - 14.30-15.30 Coffee / mingling in the exhibitions
 - 15.30-16.30 Conflict-filled cultural heritage
 - 16.30-17.30 Mingle
-

November 9 - The exhibitions open at 09.00

- 09.30-10.30 Cultural heritage and global challenges.
- 10.30-11.30 Coffee / mingling in the exhibitions
- 11.30-12.30 Cultural heritage for the future
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch and open exhibitions
- 14.00 -14.15 The conference ends

More information and full program: <https://www.gu.se/en/event/heritage-fair-2021>

Theme day: Archaeology and Interpretation

Public archeology has developed enormously over the past 30 years, but there is still a need for new methods and theories about how we communicate research, excavation results and work done on site. This theme day introduces the area of Interpretation as a way forward in public work.



Photo credit: Mölndals museum

Interpretation is an internationally accepted concept that assumes that people are more likely to care about and relate to a place / environment or an object if it / it means something to them. The pedagogical idea aims to stimulate and challenge people to reflect on the place / object and its associated stories.

Interpretation is a form of communication that is based on a personal and creative response in relation to the place / object rather than obtaining conveyed facts.

Please notice that the event is in Swedish.

Date and time: 3 December 2021, 08:30 - 16:00

Location: [Mölndals stadsmuseum & Kvarnbyn](#)

Sign up for the event by sending an email to anita.synnestvedt@archaeology.gu.se Organizer: CCHS Heritage Academy in collaboration with Arkeologerna and Bohusläns museum

Registration deadline: 25 November 2021

For more information, see our Swedish website: <https://www.gu.se/evenemang/temadag-arkeologi-och-interpretation>

CCHS LECTURES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIUMS, CONFERENCES

University College London

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[CCHS UCL](#)

[CCHS Facebook](#)

Print Style Evolution in Sierra Leone

30 October 2021, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

KHF Annual Heritage Soirée 2021, Talk & Entertainment with Mr. Nigel Browne-Davies & Freetong Players International.



Photo: Waxprints sold in a Shop in West Africa, by Alexander Sarlay, 2009

Event Information

Open to All

Availability Yes

Organiser Nenna Orie Chuku nenna.chuku.17@ucl.ac.uk

[Book now](#)

Sierra Leonean Creole Entrepreneurship

Early histories of Sierra Leonean Creoles are littered with accounts of their entrepreneurial endeavours. How did a small community create and expand into industries across Sierra Leone and what brought their demise? Join us for a talk by historian, Mr. Nigel Browne-Davies on Sierra Leonean Creole entrepreneurship in Colonial Sierra Leone.

Print Style Evolution in Sierra Leone.

The Print fibres with styles consist of vibrant colours and intricate patterns, but what are the stories behind these patterns and why are they there? Starting with the cabaslot, a long loose and shapeless garment, to modern fitted printed garments join us for a dialogue on 'Print Style Evolution in Sierra Leone'.

Please note **this talk will be in Krio.**

This event is part of the of ɛmti bag nɔ ba tinap project funded by the UCL Centre for Critical Heritage Studies.

Links

[Check Nigel Browne-Davies](#)

[Go to The Freetong Players Facebook page](#)

UCL CCHS & NT partnership - Matchmaking funding event

08 November 2021, 1:30 pm–3:00 pm

Are you interested in applying for the UCL/National Trust small research grants?

Join us for the UCL/National Trust matchmaking event on Monday 8 November 2021, 1:30pm

This event is free. Event Information:

Open to UCL staff | UCL students

Availability Yes

Cost Free

Organiser Cecile Bremont criticalheritage@ucl.ac.uk +442079115339

[Book now](#)

Organised by CCHS and the National Trust, this virtual networking event is set to gather UCL and National Trust researchers to explore and develop joint project proposals that could be considered for funding under the UCL/NT small grants scheme. Eligible projects may address, but are not restricted to:

- heritage science, modelling, citizen science, significance of loss, values, health and well being, collection environments, robotics

The event will focus on the UCL and National Trust partnership NT Research Priority Topics:

- Responding to Environmental Change
- Heritage Understanding & Significance
- Heritage & Environmental Practices



Photo by My Networking Apparel on Unsplash

Who should attend?

UCL Academic, Research and Teaching staff, postdoctoral staff, Honorary Associates, PhD students and The National Trust collaborators.

Further information

If you have any questions, please contact Cécile Bremont: criticalheritage@ucl.ac.uk and/or Kelly Dowdell, Partnership Coordinator NT: kelly.dowdell@nationaltrust.org.uk

Links

[Check CCHS & the National Trust Small Grants Scheme](#)

[Read about UCL and the National Trust long-term partnership in heritage and conservation](#)

EXTERNAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Nordic TAG 2022: Invitation and call for sessions

‘What’s the use of theory?’ is the overarching theme and exploratory question of next year’s Nordic TAG conference in Oslo. In order to capture the multifaceted, ever-growing and changing field of archaeology, it is intentionally broad and open.

We encourage all archaeologists, whether based in the Nordic countries or somewhere else, and whether you are working with sources and material from prehistoric, historic or contemporary periods, to propose sessions that seek critical debates, exchanges of ideas, and innovative and practical solutions to current and future theoretical challenges.

We welcome all types of sessions dealing with current avenues in theoretical developments, particularly those that deal with topics related to the broader heritage field, including those that address issues such as inclusivity, diversity and accessibility, and the renewed influx of quantitative and scientific methods into archaeology, the politics and uses of archaeology.

Abstract are to be submitted via email: [contact\[at\]nordictag.com](mailto:contact[at]nordictag.com).

Deadline 1 November 2021.

More information: <https://nordictag.com/2021/08/13/call-for-sessions/>

ACHS 2022 in Santiago de Chile

The **Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS)** biennial and international conferences are the largest academic events focused on heritage. The 6th ACHS 2022 will be held in **Santiago de Chile**, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) – San Joaquín Campus, **from the 4th until the 7th of December 2022**. This will be the first time the ACHS conference will take place in Latin America.

The conference's overarching theme will be ***Interculturalities***. This concept implies seeking out and initiating dialogue among diverse cultural and social-economic actors, creating a polyphonic and palimpsestic dynamic that facilitates our interaction as a social fabric and our ability to understand one another. From this perspective, we recognize the existence of conflicting positions and the power inequalities that operate therein.

We want to promote and strengthen connections among academics and professionals from the world of heritage, and offer a space for dialogue among members of indigenous and afro-descendant communities and civil society in parallel and concurrent conversations and events that offer different scenarios from which to reflect on aspects of heritage from the point of view of interculturality.

Conference website: <https://www.achs2022santiago.com/>

Welcome to ACHS 2022 Santiago de Chile!



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Podcast [Inside the Box](#)

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