

# Heritage Pathway

Heritage Pathway is a series of training and engagement activities which run termly. Since 2015, Heritage Pathway has provided undergraduate and postgraduate students, along with Early Career Researchers at the University of Oxford with the skills, knowledge and confidence to engage effectively with a wide range of partners in the heritage, museums and cultural sector.

Heritage Pathway is designed and delivered by [Dr Oliver Cox](#) and [Alice Purkiss](#) and organised through the [Humanities Researcher Training and Development Programme](#).

Through a combination of lectures, workshops and site visits led by expert practitioners, participants understand their research in a wider context and gain experience in the heritage, museums and cultural sector. Heritage Pathway opens up new avenues for careers and collaborations, while reinforcing researchers' ability to complete their research projects and academic tasks in a timely fashion.

Heritage Pathway enables participants to:

- Understand the opportunities and constraints within each sector of heritage.
- Understand the different language and vocabulary required to create successful collaborations.
- Explore how their research experience and expertise can contribute to organisations.
- Develop the skills and confidence to create collaborative research-led projects.
- Join a cohort of like-minded undergraduates, postgraduates and early career researchers.
- Develop and enhance networking abilities with internal and external colleagues.

Previous sessions have explored themes including:

- Heritage and its Audiences
- Case Studies in Collaboration: Digital Projects
- Researching, Curating and Interpreting Collections
- Careers in the Heritage and Museums Sectors
- CVs and Cover Letters for the Heritage Sector
- Commercial Heritage
- Cataloguing and Digital Projects
- Cataloguing and Spectrum Standards
- Interpretation
- Diversifying Heritage
- Communicating Heritage
- Working with Objects
- Heritage and Landscape
- Heritage and Authenticity

Site visits always include opportunities to meet with senior leaders and managers to discuss the ways in which research and the day-to-day and strategic concerns of sites and organisations intersect. Previous visits include: Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park, Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, Black Country Living Museum, and Charleston Farmhouse.

The programme team also organised an international trip to Amsterdam to enable participants to explore European research culture, museums and heritage organisations. This trip was scheduled to take place in March 2020 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

For further information please contact [training@humanities.ox.ac.uk](mailto:training@humanities.ox.ac.uk).



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## LATEST NEWS / Summer 2020

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Heritage Pathway team adapted the programme to respond to the unprecedented challenges faced by the arts and heritage sector. Around the world, museums, heritage attractions and cultural venues are closed, depriving the sector of the visitor income and secondary spend so vital for its economic sustainability. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) predicts changes that will “permanently ruin the cultural landscape of entire communities and countries”.

Our Trinity Term sessions explored these challenges and discussed the answers to these questions. The programme was delivered through interactive webinars and twitter chats with leading practitioners in the heritage sector, who discussed the short and long-term impacts of the current crisis to the industry.



## Session 1 ||| Current Issues in Arts and Heritage |||

**27** January

11:00 am



This session will explore the steps needed to build a more equitable arts and heritage sector, focussing on issues including: staff recruitment and retention, diversity of staff and audiences, governance and trusteeships, relationships to funding bodies and government, and UK collections in a global context.

Speaker:  
Dr Priya Atwal  
(Community History Fellow, University of Oxford)

## Session 2 ||| Influencing Government Policy in Arts and Heritage |||

**10** February

11:00 am



This workshop, held in Collaboration with OPEN, will explore the ways in which arts and heritage policy is formed, and how organisations and individuals can engage effectively with policy makers.

Speakers:  
Lizzie Glithero-West  
(Chief Executive, The Heritage Alliance)  
Jessica Simkiss  
(Humanities and Public Policy Officer at University of Oxford)

## Session 3 ||| Careers in Arts and Heritage |||

**24** February

11:00 am



This session, which is held in partnership with the University of Oxford [Careers Service](#), will explore careers in arts and heritage that engage directly with visitors, considering what are the key skills and requirements for roles including: front of house, visitor experience, interpretation, marketing and social media.

Speakers:  
Asha McLoughlin  
(Interpretation Editor, V&A)  
Adam Koszary  
(Social Media and Content Editor, Royal Academy of Arts)

## Session 3 ||| Women in Science at the OUMNH |||

**08** March

3:00 pm



The Oxford Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) is looking to redress the historic disparity between male and female science contributors and explore how best to bring the work of current female scientists to the fore. This is a unique opportunity to help inform a live programme of activity at OUMNH. Facilitating the sharing and discussion of ideas and opinions, this workshop will feed into initial planning by the museum that will help shape the way that female scientists are highlighted in the physical space and programme of events.

Speakers:  
Ellena Grillo (Exhibitions Officer, OUMNH)  
Kelly Richards (Exhibitions Officer, OUMNH)  
Janet Stott (Deputy Director and Head of Public Engagement, OUMNH)

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