

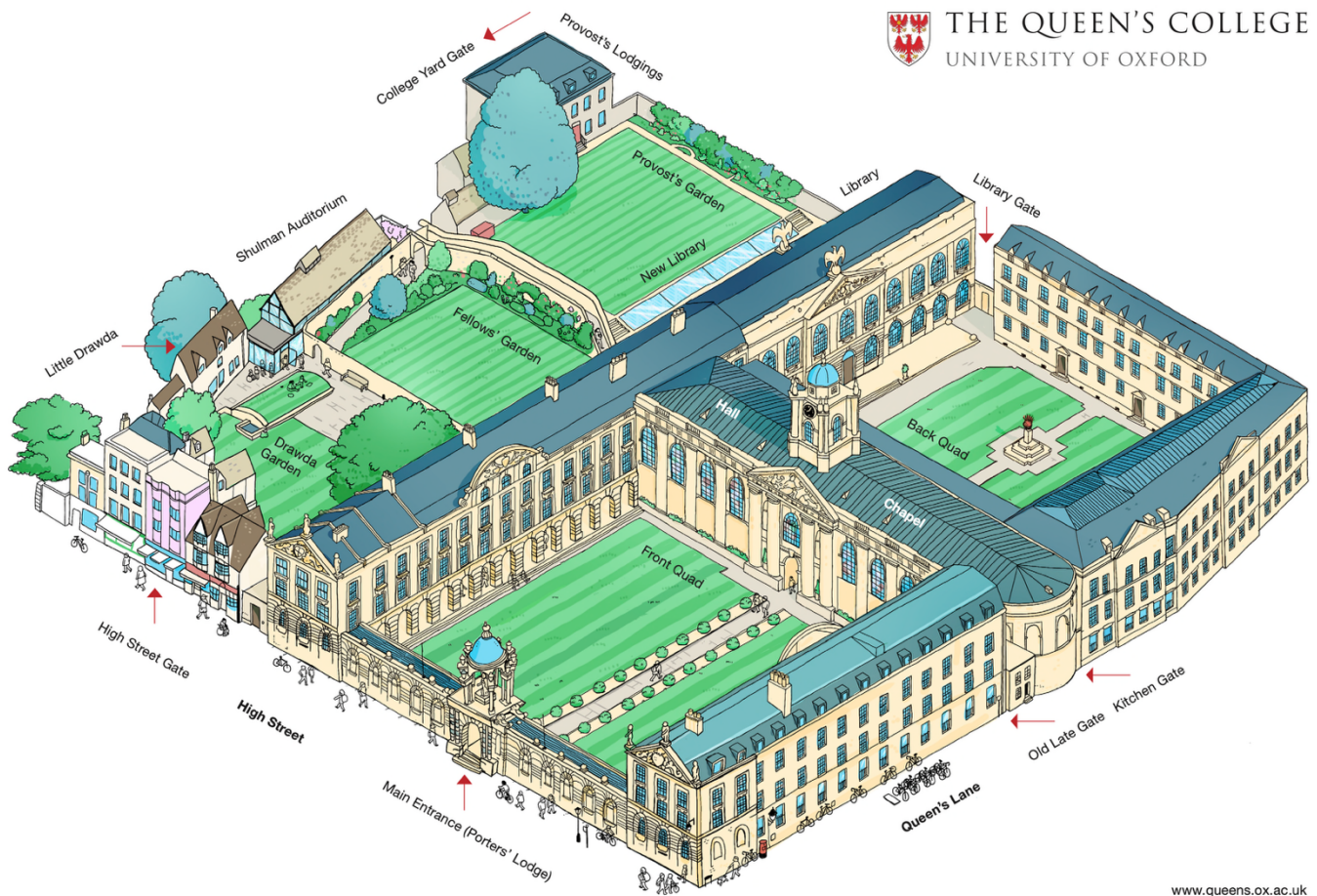
POWER AND POSSESSION

2026 AHRC International Conference

14–16 September 2026

The Queen's College, University of Oxford

The Location



This conference is made possible by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to the Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership.

Partners

Our international partners for the 2026 conference include:

- a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University
- Australian National University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Stockholm University
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- University of Murcia

Student Committee

Charles Bland (University of Cambridge), Edward Lamb (University of Oxford), Elena Trowsdale (The Open University), George Adams (University of Cambridge), Jemma Forster (University of Cambridge), Jiayao Jiang (University of Cambridge), Juan Pablo Angarita Bernal (University of Cambridge), Lilja Ruismäki (University of Cambridge), Mia Thomas (University of Oxford).

Website: <https://oocdtp.web.ox.ac.uk/power-and-possession-2026-ahrc-international-conference-o>

Contact: training@oocdtp.ac.uk

DAY I / MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

10:00 – 11:00 Registration

11:00 – 11:30 Welcome & Info Session (Room TBD)

11:30 – 13:00 Opening Keynote (Shulman Auditorium)

Prof. Arkotong Longkumer

When Digital Objects Return: Reanimating the Gaidinliu Collection from Oxford to India

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:15 Session I

Panel 1: Colonial Grammars (Room TBD)

Panel 2: Sovereignty (Room TBD)

Panel 3: Holding Dialogue (Room TBD)

Panel 4: Funerary Possession (Room TBD)

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15 Session II

Panel 5: The Body Under Discipline (Room TBD)

Panel 6: Building Power (Room TBD)

Panel 7: Classrooms, Heritage, and Authority (Room TBD)

Panel 8: Rewritings of Belief (Room TBD)

18:00 Dinner

20:00 Evening Activity (Optional) Board Game Cafe

DAY 2 / TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00 Morning Activity (Optional)

- Morning Run
- Coffee & Conversation Walk

09:30 – 10:45 Session III

Panel 9: Landscapes of Rule (Room TBD)

Panel 10: Writing Power (Room TBD)

Panel 11: Prophecy and Possession (Room TBD)

Panel 12: Hurting and Healing (Room TBD)

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Session IV

Panel 13: Climate, Conflict and Critique (Room TBD)

Panel 14: Circulation, Commodification and Control (Room TBD)

Panel 15: Seeing Power (Room TBD)

Panel 16: Custodians of Memory (Room TBD)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 16:00 Afternoon Activity (Optional)

13:30 – 15:30 Pitt Rivers Museum Handling Session

13:45 – 16:15 Film Screening: *Soundtrack to a Coup d'État* (2024)

14:00 – 15:00 Bodleian Printing Press Workshop 1

15:00 – 16:00 Bodleian Printing Press Workshop 2

14:30 – 16:00 City Walking Tour

14:30 – 16:00 C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien Walking Tour

16:00 – 18:30 Free Time

- Installation: *Echorus – What Does Cross-Modal Congruency Feel Like?* by Farshad Jafari & Charles Bland (Room TBD)
- Arts and Crafts Workshop (Room TBD)
- Visit the Ashmolean Museum or Modern Art Oxford
- Explore the Queens' Library Collections (via Bloomberg Connects App)
- Shop at the Covered Market (closes 17:30)

18:30 – 19:15 Drinks Reception (Room TBD)

19:15 – 21:00 Banquet Dinner (Hall)

DAY 3 / WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

09:15 – 10:30	Session V	
	Interactive Workshop: ‘My City Is Like a Goat’ (Room TBD)	
	Panel 17: Legislation and Regulation (Room TBD)	
	Panel 18: Restitution and Reclamation (Room TBD)	
	Panel 19: Data Dominions (Room TBD)	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Careers Panel with Academic Leads	(Shulman Auditorium)
	(Chaired by Dr. Benjamin Thompson)	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Closing Keynote	(Shulman Auditorium)
	Ture Laiti	
	<i>Power Politics from an Indigenous Perspective</i>	
15:00 – 16:15	Performative Lecture	(Shulman Auditorium)
	Jen DeNike & Jared Jackson (Introduced by Laura Wright)	
	<i>To the Moon: From Possession to Presence</i>	
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks	(Shulman Auditorium)
18:30 – 19:30	Dinner (for International Delegates)	

PANEL DETAILS



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Session I / 14 September, 14:00 – 15:15

Panel 1: Colonial Grammars (Room TBD)

Chair: Elena Trowsdale

14:00 – 14:20: **Dulani Kulasinghe** (The Open University)
Power and Memory: Constructions of Authority in Early 20th Century Ceylon

14:20 – 14:40: **Apeike Umolu** (University of Cambridge)
Anglo-Africanism and the Politics of Linguistic Possession in the Nineteenth Century Atlantic World

14:40 – 15:00: **Anita Sivakumar** (University of Oxford)
Creating Penal Ecologies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 1858-1942

Panel 2: Sovereignty (Room TBD)

Chair: Mia Thomas

14:00 – 14:20: **Jack Neill** (University of Oxford)
'[A] Very Sadd and Deplorable Condicon, Theire Former Sufferinges Beinge Still Likely to Be Continued Upon Them': Denouncing Royalist Officeholders to the Parliamentary Committee for Indemnity, c. 1647-c.1653

14:20 – 14:40: **Charlotte Roosen** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
Powerful Beasts: Native and Exotic Hunting Scenes by Peter Paul Rubens and Frans Snijders in 17th-Century Collections

14:40 – 15:00: **Zoé Lienard** (University of Oxford)
Creating a North-African Royal Dynasty: Juba II, Cleopatra Selene and Their Legitimacy Building Strategy (c. 25 BCE – 24 CE)

Panel 3: Holding Dialogue (Room TBD)

Chair: Edward Lamb

14:00 – 14:20: **Jonathan Martindale** (The Open University)
Can Wittgenstein Speak Truth to (or About) Power? – Comparative-Dialogical and Contemplative Approaches to Wittgenstein in Contrast

14:20 – 14:40: **Maria Damaskinidou** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
What Powers Over Power Dynamics in (Online) Communication: Prolegomena to a Typology of Silence

14:40 – 15:00: **Krenare Cerkini** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Who Gets to Speak? Mitigation as a Strategy of Power and Epistemic Access in ELF-Mediated Governance

Panel 4: Funerary Possession (Room TBD)

Chair: Dr. Benjamin Thompson

14:00 – 14:20: **Laura Michelini** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
Who Owns Egypt? Cultural Possession and Funerary Identity in the Late Bronze Age Southern Levant

14:20 – 14:40: **Nathalia Ribeiro Dias Guimarães** (Australian National University)
The Absent: Colonial Collecting, Indigenous Erasure, and the Case for Repatriation to Brazil

Panel 5: The Body Under Discipline (Room TBD)

Chair: **Mia Thomas**

15:45 – 16:05: **Lilja Ruismäki** (University of Cambridge)

Vain Women, Itchy Underwear, and Vagrancy: Gendering Power in Twentieth Century Finland

16:05 – 16:25: **Louisa Stockschröder** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)

Care and Control: Institutional Power in Christian Convalescent and Recovery Institutions for Children in Postwar Germany

16:25 – 16:45: **Lisa Fenucci** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Pinned Power: Sexual Badges and the Regulation of Sexual Roles in the Late Middle Ages

16:45 – 17:05: **Yijia Liu** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

She Made the Stars Fall: Powerful Court Women and Portent Discourse in the Western Han and Qing Dynasties

Panel 6: Building Power (Room TBD)

Chair: **Jiayao Jiang**

15:45 – 16:05: **Meihui Li** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Tracing Urban Power and Possession beneath Open Space: A Micromorphological Study from Late Medieval Oudenaarde

16:05 – 16:25: **Struan Bates** (University of Cambridge)

Power, Agency and the Economy of Craft Skill: Edward Goudge and Late-Seventeenth Century Building Culture

16:25 – 16:45: **Sofie Sarwar Nielsen** (University of Cambridge)

Cementing Power: The Post-war (Re-) construction of the Prudential Building in Warsaw

16:45 – 17:05: **Olha Sobetska** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Architecture as a Sociological Agent of Power

Panel 7: Classrooms, Heritage, and Authority (TBD)

Chair: **Juan Pablo Angarita Bernal**

15:45 – 16:05: **Xiaochun Ma** (Australian National University)

Possessing the Past: Heritage Education in Contemporary China

16:05 – 16:25: **Irene Barba Ros** (University of Murcia)

To Whom Does the Past Belong? Power, Possession, and Historical Thinking in Education

16:25 – 16:45: **Joshua Tan** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Products and Services Imperialism: Sakakura Associates and the Thai Vocational School Project, 1965–1971

16:45 – 17:05: **Viking Peterson** (Stockholm University)

Heritage in Competition: East and West German Cultural Diplomacy in Sweden, 1967–1990

Panel 8: Rewritings of Belief (Room TBD)

Chair: **Prof. Stefan Helgesson**

15:45 – 16:05: **Cristina Roldán Torralba** (University of Murcia)

The Weight of Beliefs in Translation: Ideology, Emotion, and Cognitive Effort

16:05 – 16:25: **Nargiz Mammadli** (Stockholm University)

Power and the Possession of Orthodoxy: Rewriting Nasimi from Heretic to Saint

16:25 – 16:45: **Tabatha Barton** (The Open University)

Getting your Gods Crossed: An Alternative Look at Syncretisation in Roman Occupied North-Western Europe

16:45 – 17:05: **Yutong Ma** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Chinese Muslims in Late Imperial China: Mosques and Historical Representation as Spaces of Negotiation

Panel 9: Landscapes of Rule (Room TBD)

Chair: **Jiayao Jiang**

09:30 – 09:50: **Ananyo Chakraborty** (Australian National University)
'Fluid State of Affairs': Fixed Borders and Moving Islands in Postcolonial Bengal Delta

09:50 – 10:10: **Kira Bre Clingen** (University of Cambridge)
From Technical to Tidal: Drawing Limits on the River Nene

10:10 – 10:30: **Aisha Hassan** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Beyond Green Capital: Reciprocity vs. Financialization in Kenyan Small-Scale Regenerative Farming

Panel 10: Writing Power (Room TBD)

Chair: **Prof. Rik Vosters**

09:30 – 09:50: **Hannah Glancy** (The Open University)
Whose Wallpaper Is It? Repossessing the Future in the Remaking of Science Fiction

09:50 – 10:10: **Milena Wein** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
'A King Will Have His Way in His Own Hall': Spatial Representations of Power in the Works of J. R. R. Tolkien

10:10 – 10:30: **Nuno de Sousa Berkeley Cotter** (Stockholm University)
The Symbolic Economy of Two Novels by Lobo Antunes

Panel 11: Prophecy and Possession (Room TBD)

Chair: **Jemma Forster**

09:30 – 09:50: **Mia Thomas** (University of Oxford)
'Now I Will Speak to the King': Prophecy and Political Empowerment in Caroline England

09:50 – 10:10: **Milosz Kowalski** (University of Cambridge)
Becoming Possessed as a 'Western Individual': Tales From a Spiritualist Séance

10:10 – 10:30: **Nienke Groskamp** (University of Cambridge)
Spirit Possession and Sexual Power: Spiritualism and Reproductive Reform under the US Comstock Act, 1873–1900

Panel 12: Hurting and Healing (Room TBD)

Chair: **Charles Bland**

09:30 – 09:50: **Magdalene Blincoe-Deval** (University of Oxford)
The land possessed: unearthing trauma and non-human witnessing in P'iat Koloskiv by Yuliya Smal'

09:50 – 10:10: **Rohan Kaya** (University of Oxford)
The Healing and Protective Powers of Poetry - A Literary and Cultural Analysis of Armenian and Arabo-Persian Verse and Prayer in the Medieval Era

10:10 – 10:30: **Aleks Forsenberg** (Stockholm University)
Meltdowns in Public: Epistemic Injustice, Sensory Overload, and the Autistic Experience in Andrzej Żuławski's Possession (1981)

Panel 13: Climate, Conflict and Critique (Room TBD)

Chair: **Ture Laiti**

11:15 – 11:35: **Laiwo Xie** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Critique and Its Limits: The Three Gorges Project and Displacement in Chinese Independent Cinema

11:35 – 11:55: **Pieter Rodts** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Whose Heritage? Feral Archives and the Politics of Possession in the Sonian Forest

11:55 – 12:15: **Jorge Palacios** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Martian Borderlands: Colonizing (Outer) Space in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Panel 14: Circulation, Commodification, and Control (Room TBD)

Chair: **Lilja Ruismäki**

11:15 – 11:35: **Sofia Ekelund** (Stockholm University)
The Capital of Cloth: Textile and Dress as a Resource of Power in 16th Century Sweden

11:35 – 11:55: **Anna Céline Schäfer** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
The Smell of Power and the Power of Smell: Commodifying Wilderness in the Global Perfume Industry

11:55 – 12:15: **William Torbeyns** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
The Means to Move: Power, Possession, and the Selectivity of Migration in the Late Middle Ages

Panel 15: Seeing Power (Room TBD)

Chair: **Prof. Christian Spies**

11:15 – 11:35: **Ann Gavaghan** (The Open University)
How Londoners Were Depicted on London Underground: A Case Study of Two Public Artworks

11:35 – 11:55: **Ivan Kanivets** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
Power Over the Image: Archival Film and the Ownership of the Past in the Ukrainian Revolution (1917–1921)

11:55 – 12:15: **Daniela Santos Martins** (University of Murcia)
Power Dynamics in the Study and Preservation of Roman Wall Painting

Panel 16: Custodians of Memory (Room TBD)

Chair: **George Adams**

11:15 – 11:35: **Olive Maria Higham** (University of Cambridge)
'His Education Bespeaking It As Little': Manuscript Accessibility, the Power of the Public Sphere and the Forgotten Trailblazers of Early Modern Saxon Studies

11:35 – 11:55: **Danjela Dodaj** (A.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of Cologne University)
Owning the past? Material Culture and the Production of Archaeological Knowledge

11:55 – 12:15: **Ebba Vikdahl** (Stockholm University)
Obsessions and Possessions: Magical Stones, Museums, and the Making of Scientific Authority

Interactive Workshop (Room TBD)

Introduced by: **Jemma Forster**

09:15 – 10:30: **Shreyasi Sharma** (The Open University)

'My City Is Like a Goat': A Peek from My Fieldwork in Climate Crisis in India through a Workshop

Panel 17: Legislation and Regulation (Room TBD)

Chair: **Lilja Ruismäki**

09:15 – 09:35: **Amy Hemsworth** (University of Oxford)

Illegality and Maladministration in Systemic Judicial Review

09:35 – 09:55: **Rhea Mertes** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Food for Thought: Regulatory Power and Food Safety in the Low Countries, c.1200–1400

09:55 – 10:15: **Lauren Anderson** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

From Fiduciary Responsibility to Asset Manager Capitalism: The Transformation of Capital Ownership in Late 20th-Century America

Panel 18: Restitution and Reclamation (Room TBD)

Chair: **Prof. Diana Henderson**

09:15 – 09:35: **Caroline Colbran** (Australian National University)

The Architecture of French Colonial Possession: The Long Return of Cultural Property and Human Remains to Algeria and Vietnam

09:35 – 09:55: **Juliette Gautron** (University of Cambridge)

Indigenous Soft Power: Land Rights Advocacy and Autonomy through Theatre

09:55 – 10:15: **Huzeima Mahamadu** (Australian National University)

The Politics of Representing Enslavement History in Museums: Power, Knowledge, and Contested Memory

Panel 19: Data Dominions (Room TBD)

Chair: **Prof. Angela Almela Sanchez-Lafuente**

09:15 – 09:35: **Geneva Blackmer & Juan Pablo Angarita Bernal** (University of Cambridge)

From Access to Ownership: A Data Colonialism Analysis of Digital Library Exhibition Practices in Bogotá, Colombia (2021 – 2023)

09:35 – 09:55: **Janina Carmen Di Pierro Cárdenas** (University of Murcia)

Promoting Metacognitive Strategies through ICT Tools in Second Language Learners

09:55 – 10:15: **Laura Centeno Casado** (University of Murcia)

Who Holds the Data, Who Holds the Power? Health Data Rights in the European Health Data Space

10:15 – 10:35: **Nerea Gálvez Vilar** (University of Murcia)

Digital Entrepreneurship as Competence to Empower University Teachers in the Artificial Intelligence Era