

Association of Critical Heritage Studies
Reports for 2022-2024



Table of contents:

Report of the President	2
Report of the Vice-President (Chapters)	4
Report of the Vice-President (Communications)	7
Report of the Vice-President (Conference)	8
Report of the Vice-President (Membership)	10
Report of the ECRN	11
Financial Statements	14



May 30, 2024

2024 Report of the President

Melissa F. Baird

I am grateful to the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) for allowing me to serve. It has been an honor and a privilege to meet and learn from our members, who are shaping and expanding the global conversation around heritage.

In 2022, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Association and held our 6th biennial conference in Santiago. We are now looking forward to our upcoming meeting in Galway, Ireland, where an amazing lineup of presentations, workshops, keynotes, and events explore the theme of Custodianship/Coimirce. I sincerely appreciate the conference organizers, the Local Scientific Committee, the International Scientific Committee, and the Organizing Committee, whose efforts over the past two years have brought the Galway Conference to fruition. A special note of thanks to Dr. Tokie Laotan-Brown and her team for their hard work and vision.

Over the last two years, the ACHS Executive Committee has focused on expanding representation. This work encompasses adding new chapters, increasing bursaries, and providing new venues for members to share their work. Dr. Duane Jethro, a member of the Executive Committee, led the launch of *Currents in Critical Heritage Studies*, a new online publication platform by ACHS. This platform aims to showcase compelling new work from the ACHS community, offering brief yet insightful contributions, excerpts, and reflections on current scholarly work, books, and projects relevant to the heritage studies field. Serving as a central forum for exchange within the ACHS community, the platform seeks to navigate the swiftly evolving currents of the field and address the social and political uncertainties of today's world.

We are excited to announce the addition of several new chapters! Our Chapter's Committee has provided an update on establishing a new Italy chapter, ongoing discussions with Dr. Trinidad regarding a new network, and progress on a chapter with the South Africa Chapter. ACHS now includes a Latin American and Caribbean Chapter. These expanding chapters will play a crucial role in shaping the future of ACHS.

No association can grow without strong connections and deep commitments to its members, especially its early career and student members; they provide the direction and support to foster the next generation of ACHS leaders. We are following in the footsteps of past initiatives to ensure that the Early Career Network's important work continues and is prioritized. In the next two years, the ACHS EC team will reach out to prioritize connections and support of ECR networks. Do check out their new blog and page on our website.

Thanks to our Treasurer, Dr. Marisa Angell Brown - who has overseen the Association's sound financial strategy and health. Her attention to finances has made it possible to review our support of early career members and students. As the Treasurer's reports indicate, the Association reported a healthy budget and projected revenue growth. In the coming two years, the Association will work to increase our support of early career and student members and to align with our members' needs.

The Vice Presidents of Conference and Events, Chapters, Communications, and the Treasurer have each provided reports outlining their committee's work.

I want to thank the contributions of our Executive Committee and their incredible work in advancing the ACHS mission. These talented and dedicated members - stepped up in many ways to do the work on various committees and projects. At the heart of this work is the shared commitment to our mission. It provides the direction for our work together. Thank you to each of you for your individual and collective efforts and for providing much-needed discussions about the association and our next steps. A special thank you to ACHS Secretariat Officer Dr. Jess Mace - who makes all of this possible - and her support of the association. None of this work would be possible without her support.

I would like to highlight the work of our outgoing Executive Committee (EC) members who have stepped down. Each has supported the Association's work and positioned us well for the future. Their efforts have enriched our Association and have not gone unnoticed. Thank you!

In closing, ACHS's strength is in its members and chapters. Our members comprise a global community whose outstanding work and energies grow and advance work on critical heritage worldwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,



Melissa F. Baird
President, Association of Critical Heritage Studies

Report of the Vice-President (Chapters)

Prepared by: Tokie Laotan-Brown, Vice-President

Members: Naomi Oosterman

1. *Establishment of the ACHS Latin America and Caribbean Chapter*

Introduction:

We are thrilled to announce the inauguration of the ACHS Latin America and the Caribbean chapter. This new chapter welcomes academics and practitioners who are engaged in critical heritage studies in, from, or with a focus on the region.

Mission and Goals:

The chapter is dedicated to supporting research initiatives that contest and address colonial legacies, inequalities, and power dynamics within heritage contexts. This includes:

- Collaborative work with Indigenous and African communities
- Dialogues on heritage restitution, acknowledgment, and reparation
- Actions against illicit trade and trafficking of cultural artifacts
- Exploring alternative forms of heritage and learning decolonial strategies

Membership and Involvement:

Members interested in joining can find the chapter listed in the ACHS membership directory. For more information, potential members can visit [ACHS Latin America and Caribbean Chapter Link] or contact the chapter coordinators, Camila Andrea Malig Jedlicki, Victoria Vargas Downing, and Naomi Oosterman.

Inaugural Event:

The chapter's inaugural event will be held during the ACHS 2024 conference in Galway. Updates and registration options are available for those interested in participating.

2. *Introduction of the Heritage and Transnationalism Network (HTN)*

Overview:

The Heritage and Transnationalism Network (HTN) is poised to enrich our understanding of heritage in its tangible and intangible forms, especially as it relates to international relations and geopolitics.

Scope and Objectives:

- Examining the impact of heritage on human movements and displacements
- Exploring heritage's role in international relations and public diplomacy
- Investigating how heritage is used by international actors in global discourses

- Understanding the transnational constitution of heritage and its broader implications

Alignment with ACHS:

HTN aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and enhance ACHS's mission by partnering across various networks and chapters, promoting innovative research and professional exchanges.

3. Proposal for a New ACHS Network: 'Critical Heritage Programs'

Rationale:

Given the thematic and regional expansion of ACHS, there is a recognized need to align our academic efforts with the evolving landscape of graduate training in heritage studies.

Proposed Activities:

- Creation of a dedicated mailing list for circulating program-specific support and opportunities
- Discussion platforms for topics like new teaching resources, recruitment, and diversity issues
- Coordination of a more prominent presence at ACHS meetings and other relevant conferences

Coordination and Recruitment:

Initially led by Trinidad Rico, the network seeks to include program directors from various international institutions, focusing on creating a robust dialogue and support system for heritage programs.

4. ACHS South African Chapter

Mission:

The ACHS South African chapter aims to highlight the significant contributions of local scholars and practitioners, creating a platform for rethinking heritage in the context of African continental realities.

Objectives:

- Challenge the legacy of South African exceptionalism in heritage
- Rethink the role of the nation-state in heritage organization
- Examine the machinery of heritage governance
- Link heritage to broader developmental debates
- Foster regional heritage discussions across Southern Africa

Themes of Special Concern:

Includes climate change, interdisciplinary heritage projects, restitution, and the interplay between development and heritage.

5. *ACHS Italian Chapter*

Introduction

Established in 2023 following the impactful Lynx Summer School themed "Dissonances. Re-interpreting and re-assessing difficult heritage" at the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, the Italian Chapter of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) represents a dynamic addition to our global network. The chapter integrates scholars from diverse geographical backgrounds who are either based in Italy or engaged with Italian heritage through critical, interdisciplinary, and comparative lenses.

Chapter Objectives and Vision

The Italian Chapter is dedicated to advancing critical heritage studies within Italy, a region where traditional heritage discourses still profoundly influence heritage politics and management. Our objectives are to challenge these prevailing narratives and introduce innovative perspectives that can benefit heritage managers, practitioners, and the broader academic community.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Difficult and Totalitarian Heritage:** Exploring the legacies and reinterpretations of contentious historical periods.
- **Architecture and Nationalism:** Examining the links between architectural practices and national identity.
- **Overtourism:** Assessing the impact of excessive tourism on urban centers and cultural sites.
- **International Relations and Culture:** Investigating the role of cultural diplomacy and conflict.
- **Cultural and Memory Policies:** Analyzing the evolution of policies that shape public memory and cultural heritage.
- **Art-Based Practices:** Promoting decolonizing imaginations through artistic and curatorial initiatives.
- **Museums and Collections:** Advancing critical approaches to museum practices and their societal roles.

Activities and Achievements

Throughout the past year, the Italian Chapter has actively promoted dialogue and collaboration among its members through various initiatives:

- **Online Seminars:** Regular sessions have been conducted to discuss recent research, methodologies, and case studies relevant to Italian heritage.

- **Newsletters:** Bi-monthly newsletters have been distributed to keep members informed about recent activities, upcoming events, and opportunities within the field.
- **Joint Research Projects:** Facilitation of collaborative research projects among members to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage studies.
- **ACHS Galway Conference 2024:** The chapter is preparing to present a panel at the upcoming ACHS conference, showcasing the research and discussions from within the Italian context.

Future Directions

Looking forward, the Italian Chapter aims to expand its influence by:

- **Increasing Membership:** Encouraging more professionals and academics from related fields to join and contribute to the chapter's activities.
- **Enhancing Public Engagement:** Organizing public lectures and community engagement activities that promote awareness and appreciation of heritage issues.
- **Strengthening Inter-Chapter Collaboration:** Building stronger ties with other ACHS chapters to enhance global connectivity and interdisciplinary exchange.
- **Supporting Professional Development:** Providing members with opportunities for professional growth and development through workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs.

This report outlines the promising developments and strategic expansions within ACHS, reflecting our commitment to fostering critical and inclusive dialogues in heritage studies. We look forward to the continued growth and impact of these initiatives in the global heritage community.

Report of the Vice-President (Communications)

Prepared by: Plácido González Martínez, Vice-President

Members: Chiara Bonacchi, Alexandra Dellios, Plácido González Martínez, Ali Mozzafari

Overview of activities August 2022- June 2024

Accomplishment: Development of the ACHS Newsletter

Sub-committees and members involved: Alexandra Dellios, Plácido González Martínez, Ali Mozzafari

Details: 4 Newsletters published every year

Challenges: Gathering of information from the membership and the chapters; development of interviews

--

Accomplishment: Cooperation with ECRN

Sub-committees and members involved: Plácido González Martínez

Details: Participation in events organized by the ECRN

--

Accomplishment: Management of the ACHS email

Sub-committees and members involved: Plácido González Martínez

Details: Weekly check

Challenges: Keeping a regular track, fostering better communication with ACHS Members.

--

Accomplishment: Management of ACHS X

Sub-committees and members involved: Ali Mozaffari, Chiara Bonacchi

Details: Posts about relevant information shared by ACHS Members or messages from the ACHS EC

Challenges: Sustain a regular posting activity and replies.

--

Accomplishment: Development of reporters threads on ACHS X

Sub-committees and members involved: Ali Mozaffari

Details: Plan to post threads on current topics on heritage studies.

Challenges: To feed the threads on a regular basis. This may be due to reluctance to commit, and secondly, that Twitter may be seen as a toxic environment.

--

Projected Work for 2024-2026

Provide recommendations and a rough timeline for work plans for next EC.

- Further development and improvement of ACHS Newsletter
- Development of reporters threads
- Continue providing assistance to the ACHS Membership through the ACHS email
- Collaboration with other VPs: Conferences, Membership, ECRN

Report of the Vice-President (Conference)

Prepared by: Myriam Joannette, Vice-President

Overview of activities August 2022- June 2024

Accomplishments:

- Helped create the first Conference Bid Proposal Guidelines

- Discussions and meetings with the different teams wishing to bid for future conferences
- Conference 2026: Discussions with Wellington about a Memorandum of Understanding. The document is currently being revised and will be sent to the Board after the Galway conference
- Conference 2028: Support for Warsaw in the writing and preparation of their bid for the 2024 conference. The city and the tourist office are still involved. They have confirmed the new Scientific Committee, rooted more firmly in the CHS dimension
- In a desire to solidify the ACHS network and create a community around conference organizers, we want to create opportunities for the organizers of past conferences and those of future conferences to meet and discuss best practices, issues, the challenges and opportunities of organizing an ACHS conference. In this sense, a first meeting between the organizers of Santiago, Montreal, Galway and Wellington was held in May 2023. The organizers were able to discuss the challenges, successes and constraints linked to the organization of a conference
- We plan to repeat the experience after the 2024 conference between the members of the 2024, 2026 and 2028 committee (and those from previous conferences are obviously welcome).

Challenges:

- The main challenge in organizing ACHS conferences is finding teams that are led by academics and practitioners, not tourism offices. Bids must convincingly fit into the CHS and team members must be able to develop a program that reflects the CHS.
- The organization of ACHS conferences poses challenges given the diversity of the territories where they take place. An important challenge is to understand these territories and the vision of the organizing teams on the CHS. The organizational issues (costs, accessibility, attendance) also differ significantly from year to year.

Projected Work for 2024-2026

- For the 2030 conference, the deadline to submit should be May 1, 2026. Steps must be taken from summer 2024 to find potential candidates. The EC may want to prioritize a candidacy on the African continent.
- We also wish to set up an official post-mortem after each conference. The organizers will be invited to submit this post-mortem to the ACHS board within 3 months after the end of each conference (budget, number of expected participants VS number of participants present, difficulties encountered, etc.).
- We are working on a Guideline in this sense which will be ready in September 2024 (for the PM of the Galway conference). Depending on the availability of the organizing committees, we also suggest that this post-mortem be presented directly to the members of the following conference by the members of the conference of the year.

- ACHS does not have a standard Memorandum of Understanding to use for conferences. We suggest building on the experience of the first MOU with Wellington to create a standard document.

Report of the Vice-President (Membership)

Prepared by: Bryony Onciul, Vice-President

Members: Carsten Wergin, Yiping Dong, and Duane Jethro

The ACHS has a vibrant membership of over 2555 experts. Our aim is to continue to grow the membership and increase the reach and influence of the Association geographically and professionally.

To do this we are balancing the financial accessibility of membership (i.e. low cost options), with the need to ensure the Association is resilient and can fund prizes and conference bursaries that help support access. We have noticed a pattern of membership growth in conference years and payment lapses or decline in non-conference years. We have heard from our members that many want to contribute more and have ways to easily maintain their memberships.

In response, we have implemented a new range of membership options. We have kept the original individual membership on a \$10-\$40 USD sliding fees scale and added \$50 and \$60 options for those who are able to pay more. We are happy to report that that members are already selecting high fees, paying what they can so that collectively we can keep the costs low and accessible for everyone. This is wonderful and a testament to our members generosity and commitment to the field of Critical Heritage Studies. Thank you.

We have added 2-year membership options, for those who do not want to regularly renew, and auto-renewal options for those who want to make a longer commitment. Members are already selecting these options that make maintaining ACHS membership easier. Thank you.

We have created institutional memberships to enable organizations to become members. This includes 10 individual memberships and is a great way to raise an organization's profile, while enabling free membership for individuals within the organization. If your organization is interested in signing up, you can find the details here:

<https://www.criticalheritagestudies.org/become-a-member-1#join>

We have created four philanthropic tiers in the individual memberships options that can be named or anonymous: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. These membership options are designed for those who want to give more and leave a legacy.

We are aware that in the past it has been hard to find membership numbers, so we have updated the confirmation email to include individual and institutional memberships, to help make registration easier.

We hope these changes will help maintain and grow our membership. We know that our strength and vitality as an Association is based on our members, so we encourage you to invite colleagues, students, friends, and institutions to join.

As Vice President for Membership, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for supporting the Association and making it so dynamic, vibrant, and welcoming. Your expertise, skills, research, and praxis are what makes our Association a leader in the field at the forefront of knowledge and practice.

I look forward to seeing you in Galway Ireland this June, and in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2026.

Report of the Early-Career Research Network

Prepared by: the ECRN Coordinating Team

From 2022 to 2024 the ECRN coordinators have worked looking to engage a wider community of Early Careers through the coordination of workshops, symposiums, blogs and a special Issue of *IJHS*.

As a result, the activities realized have engaged 167 attendees to the online symposium series and workshops having positive feedback regarding the level of the contributions and variety of topics addressed. Also Desmond Sham, Ran Wei and Yelyzaveta Nesterova have been organizing a Special Issue for the *IJHS* selecting 7 papers from the Early career community for publication plus an introduction of the coordination team.

Regarding the newsletter, the network has issued 6 number of newsletters and the number of people subscribed to the newsletter is 200.

Recent updates on activities and proceedings:

1. Following the *2023 Heritage Justice II: Contestation, Motion and Emotion Symposium* - which highlighted original and innovative research cutting across a wide variety of themes like contested pasts, difficult heritage, (de)colonization, affect, memory, migration, and spotlighting multiple case studies from across the globe - held in August 2023, ECRN team decided to try publishing papers from the symposium in *IJHS*. Following the exchange with the journal's editor, Prof. Laurajane Smith and her confirmation to proceed, Ran Wei, Desmond Sham and Yelyzaveta Nesterova took responsibility as ECRN editors and reached out to participants of symposium with this idea in November 2023. It is planned that depending on how many papers there will be, the papers can be published as a full special issue or a themed section of one issue.

The participants who agreed to proceed were asked to submit an updated abstract.

Realizing this will be the first publishing experience for most of the participants, a decision to organize a Writing Workshop was made. The first Writing workshop was held on November 9, 2023 where ECRN editors explained the publishing process, commented on submitted abstracts and answered questions. The participants were asked to produce a first draft of their papers by April 1, 2024 and gave consent to share their drafts with other participants.

The ECRN editors followed by organizing a second workshop on March 21, 2024 where both editors and participants exchanged their opinions and made suggestions for the papers

submitted. The editors thoroughly reviewed the drafts onwards and returned them to the participants asking them to submit the second draft by July 2024.

2. On December 11, 2023, a post called ECRspeak: Early Voices -ACHS New Digital Space was published on the currents. It announced the launch of a new digital space dedicated to critical heritage discussions among early career researchers. The post was edited by Yelyzaveta Nesterova, Stanley J. Onyemechalu, and Desmond Sham.

Thanks to the efforts of EC Committee members a new ECRspeak tab is up now on the ACHS website and the landing page and first blog post will appear soon.

3. On April 5, 2023, Yelyzaveta Nesterova met online with Monalisa Maharjan to discuss possible collaboration between ECRN Team and Intangible Heritage (ICH) Researchers Network. They agreed to proceed with a webinar format with ICH and ECRN speakers during which participants will have the opportunity to share their research. Monalisa also stated she invites contributions from ECRN members to ICH newsletter; and that she her network is potentially interested in contributing to ECRspeak blog when it will be up.
4. Two ECRN Coordinating Team Members, Victoria Vargas Downing and Stanley J. Onyemechalu, contributed to the recent IJHS publication "*10 years on: past, present, and future of (A)CHS roundtable discussion*" published by Michelle Stefano (published online 01 April 2024). The contributions are based on a discussion panel that was held during the ACHS conference in Santiago in 2022.
5. Victoria Vargas Downing became one of the coordinators of the newly introduced Latin America and the Caribbean Chapter which aims to promote novel research lines in the field of heritage studies that are shaped by Latin American and Caribbean perspectives, knowledges, strategies, sentipensares, practical and theoretical innovations.
6. Desmond Sham, an ECRN Coordinating Team Member responsible for issuing newsletters, continued his effort and shared newsletters with ECRN subscribers on a bimonthly basis.
7. The ECRN member who will be present at the Galway conference discussed with Tokie Brown opportunities to organize an ECRN event during the conference. The agreement was made to give ECRN a booth at the registration. Also, ECRN will have a meet up session/coffee break at 2pm UK time on June 4, 2024.
8. The ECRN Coordinating Team will have a meeting in the coming week to reflect on current actions, discuss future activities and do succession planning. A call for new coordinating team members will be made this week.

In the period between 2024-2026 the ECRN is looking to keep expanding the network activities.

1-Symposium 3

2- Preparing activities for Wellington activities

3- Collaboration with ICH chapter, and webinars, to exchange proceedings and research.

4- Blog post,

For doing this we will be launching a call for coordinators aiming to conform 10 to 12 people.

5- Looking for a way of engaging those who will not be able to attend the Galway conference; this can be through a later conference/event of several key presentations from the conference. This follows a more recent discussion in the course of which Osterman suggested that it is possible to look for volunteers from the conference for a later webinar – this could include panels/keynotes and would be digital and entirely public.

Reflections and areas of improvement

While the newsletter helps us to connect with our members, there are limitations in using the newsletter for idea exchange among members. To tackle such constraints, we will encourage members to write and comment on the blog.

We will look for new members for the coordination team, and will encourage applications from under-represented areas and particularly from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and the wider South Pacific area, particularly members of Indigenous communities or first nations, to coordinate in situ activities of the next conference.

ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Compilation engagement report	1
Statement of operations	2
Changes in net assets	3
Balance sheet	4
Notes to financial statements	5



COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Management of
Association of Critical Heritage Studies

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the balance sheet of Association of Critical Heritage Studies as at December 31, 2022, the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and Note 2, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial statements and, if applicable, other explanatory information ("financial statements").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile them and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial statements.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial statements.

Readers are cautioned that the financial statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

While compiling the financial statements, we made several adjusting entries.

By **Daniel Joannette, CPA auditor**

Mont-Laurier, November 28, 2023

ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

(unaudited - see Compilation Engagement Report)

Page 2

	2022	2021
Revenues	<u>21 149</u> \$	<u>17 052</u> \$
Expenses		
Office and software fees	4 570	4 466
Marketing fees	6 049	786
Professional fees	-	1 380
Transaction fees	<u>1 055</u>	<u>827</u>
	<u>11 674</u>	<u>7 459</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u><u>9 475</u></u> \$	<u><u>9 593</u></u> \$

ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

(unaudited - see Compilation Engagement Report)

Page 3

	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	49 612 \$	40 019 \$
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u>9 475</u>	<u>9 593</u>
Balance, end of year	<u><u>59 087</u></u> \$	<u><u>49 612</u></u> \$

ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022

(unaudited - see Compilation Engagement Report)

Page 4

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	58 428 \$	49 059 \$
Temporary placement	<u>1 011</u>	<u>1 010</u>
	<u>59 439 \$</u>	<u>50 069 \$</u>
Liability		
Current liability		
Accounts payable	352 \$	457 \$
Net assets		
Unrestricted net asset	<u>59 087</u>	<u>49 612</u>
	<u>59 439 \$</u>	<u>50 069 \$</u>

Signed for the Board,

_____, Director

ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL HERITAGE STUDIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

(unaudited - see Compilation Engagement Report)

Page 5

1. Incorporation statutes and nature of activities

The organization was incorporated on August 15, 2018 under Part III of the Québec Companies Act and is a not-for-profit organization. The organization's mission is to promote heritage as a field of critical and/or analytical research.

2. Accounting method applied in the preparation of financial information

The accounting method applied in the preparation of financial information is based on historical cost, taking into account treasury operations as well as the following elements:

- the cash accounting method, modified by use of certain adjustments and estimates
- investments, recorded at cost
- suppliers and accrued liabilities