



AIMA 2021
19th CONGRESS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF AGRICULTURAL
MUSEUMS

**PAST AND FUTURE
AGRICULTURES**

Join the conversation @MuseumsAIMA

#AIMA2021 #PastFutureAg

PLEASE NOTE: All times are provided in British Summer Time (BST). We have done our best to take time zones into account but this has not always proven possible. We are keen to work towards resolving remaining time zone issues as far as is possible.

DAY 1 – Thursday 22 July

Welcome / Ollie Douglas and Isabel Hughes
introduction

12.45

Session 1 **ORDINARY SESSION: New Approaches to Museums of Farming**

13.00-14.00 **Chair: Pete Watson**, Director, [Howell Living History Farm](#)

This session will comprise 10-minute-long pre-recorded papers, each followed by 5 minutes of live questions and discussion.

15 mins **Winani Thebele**, Chief Curator and Head of Ethnology, Botswana National Museum

The Bonnington Colonial Legacy: Conserving and Restoring Farming Heritage

This project depicts the history of early colonial farming in Botswana's capital, Gaborone. Key exhibits include the farmhouse, grain silos, ox wagons, feeding troughs, and farm implements. Artists were invited to paint murals of farm activities on the silo walls. Botswana was a British Protectorate until 1966 when it gained independence. Exploring the traces of this colonial history, this paper offers critical analysis of colonial farming in Botswana, of its impact on local communities, of how it might have informed the current agricultural practices of the local populace, and of how sustainable this colonial legacy has been.

15 mins **Elsa Hietala**, Curator, [Sarka Finnish Museum of Agriculture](#)

Creating New Approaches at the Finnish Museum of Agriculture

Sarka's latest displays present the salvaged eighteenth- and nineteenth-century collections of Helsinki University Agriculture Museum. These are designed to be accessible to all. The Museum is currently developing the national Food Museum, using events, exhibitions, tours, workshops, and online content to explore food from many perspectives. Current global challenges in climate, food production, and consumption increase the need for us to present the impact of the food choices we make. Sarka wants to bring historical perspective to this conversation.

15 mins **Benjamin Sin Chiu Hang**, Social Work Supervisor, Caritas

A Community-Driven Movement on Revitalising the Old Hong Kong Dairy Farm Heritage Site

The Hong Kong Dairy Farm Company, now a multinational corporation, was founded in 1886 to bring hygienic, nutritious and affordable milk to the community. The dairy farm closed in 1985 but was rediscovered by neighbouring villagers. Supported by a local charity and the Dairy Farm Company this work led to public tours and workshops, the listing of historic buildings, and formation of the largest built-heritage cluster in the City. The team also turned the Old Farm Manager's House into a museum of sustainable rural development.

15 mins **Bob Clark**, Director, [Auchindrain Township](#)

Best Practice in the Thorny Field: Recent Approaches at Auchindrain

Director of a regional museum with a site-specific agricultural history and current Chair of the UK's Rural Museums Network (RMN), Bob Clark, introduces us to the approaches his institution favours and why they make sense there but perhaps not everywhere.

15 minute
break

Session 2 **ROUNDTABLE SESSION: Climate, Environment, and Sustainability**

14.15-15.00 **Chair: Surajit Sarkar**, Coordinator, Centre For Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University

The final format of this session will be confirmed in due course.

45 minutes
total

Cameron Archer, Agricultural and Environmental Historian

Debra Reid, Curator of Agriculture and the Environment, The Henry Ford

David M. Simmons, Executive Director, Billings Farm and Museum

Together the panel will explore and share insights and ideas relating to the role and place of environmental history in museums of farming.

15 minute
break

Session 3 **KEYNOTE SESSION: Art and Agriculture**

15.15-16.00 **Chair: Isabel Hughes**, Vice-President of AIMA / Associate Director, The MERL

This session will comprise a 30-minute-long pre-recorded keynote paper, followed by 15 minutes of live questions and discussion.

45 minutes
total

Speaker: Adam Sutherland, Director, Grizedale Arts

Connecting Resources - Cultivating Communities

Adam Sutherland will discuss the reinvention and evolution of Lawson Park, a long derelict Cumbrian hill farm that is now the hub of a complex programme of collaborations between farming communities from Yamaguchi to Southside Chicago.

DAY 2 – Friday 23 July

Session 4 **ORDINARY SESSION: Working With Agricultural Films**

13.00-14.00 **Chair: Caroline Gould**, Principal Archivist, The MERL

The final format of this session will be confirmed in due course.

20

Peter Moser, Director, Archives of Rural History, Bern

Introducing the European Rural History Film Association (ERHFA)

A short introduction to this important project and its various member organisations, explaining why this timely scheme is relevant to the work of agricultural museums and other key partners.

40

Yves Segers, Centre for Agrarian History, KU Leuven

Sven Lefevre, Centre for Agrarian History, KU Leuven

Brigitte Semanek, Research Assistant, Institute of Rural History, St. Pölten

Syds Wiersma, Archivist, Friesian Film Archive, The Netherlands

Roundtable: Do Moving Picture Say More Than A Thousand Words?

Our introductory speaker is joined in a wider session that will introduce the work and interests of the ERHFDA in more detail, explore the role of rural and agricultural film in charting farming history, and introduce delegates to a range of different approaches to film being adopted in rural and agricultural archive and museum contexts.

15 minute
break

Session 5 **ROUNDTABLE SESSION: Working With Agricultural Tools**

14.15-15.00 **Chair: Lisa Harris**, Collections and Interpretation Manager, [Museum of East Anglian Life](#)

The final format of this session will be confirmed in due course.

15 mins **Hugh Cheape**, Professor, National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture

Lifting Material Culture into Interdisciplinary Research: The MSc in Gàidhealtachd History

30 mins **Kerry-Leigh Burchill**, Director General, [Canada Agriculture and Food Museum](#)

Bob Powell, Working Horse and Farming Historian, Independent

Our panel of experts will share insights and ideas relating to agricultural tools and material culture in the museum setting.

15 minute
break

Session 6 **KEYNOTE SESSION: Agriculture and the Digital Museum**

15.15-16.00 **Chair: Guy Baxter**, Associate Director, [The MERL](#) / Head of Archive Services

This session will comprise a 30-minute-long pre-recorded keynote paper, followed by 15 minutes of live questions and discussion.

45 minutes **Speaker: Adam Koszary**, Social Media and Content Editor, [Royal Academy of Arts](#)

total

From Farm Museum to Absolute Unit

In April 2018 the Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL) achieved viral internet fame when it tweeted a photograph of an Exmoor Horn Aged Ram, archived as part of holdings related to the journal Farmer and Stockbreeder. In this keynote Adam Koszary, former Programme Manager and Digital Lead at The MERL, explores how the event affected the Museum and the wider sector, the potential for agricultural museums for using social media in advancing their missions, and what is holding them back.

DAY 3 – Saturday 24 July

Session 7 **KEYNOTE SESSION: Agriculture Museums and the Intangible**

13.00-14.00 **Chair: Ollie Douglas**, President of the AIMA / Curator of MERL Collections

This session will comprise a 30-minute-long pre-recorded keynote paper, followed by 15 minutes of live questions and discussion.

45 minutes **Speaker: Nerupama Y. Modwel**, Director of Intangible Cultural Heritage Division, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

total

Title and abstract TBC

15 minute
break

Session 8 **ORDINARY SESSION: Bringing the Past to Life**

14.15-15.15 **Chair: Deb Reid**

This session will comprise 10-minute-long pre-recorded papers, each followed by 5 minutes of live questions and discussion.

15 **Claus Kropp**, Director, [Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory](#)

Medieval Agriculture In Experiment

The drought of 2018 caused massive problems in agriculture. This paper asks how medieval farmers might have coped with situations like this. Did medieval subsistence strategies result in advantages which could be of use for modern agriculture? The Laresham Open Air Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey delivers valuable insights into the value of medieval subsistence strategies for 21st century agriculture.

15 **Cozette Griffin-Kremer**, Associate Researcher, CRBC Brest

Engaging with Living Heritage: Local Breeds at Work in the Museum

This paper explores museum presentation of small-scale alternative approaches to agricultural production. Taking the local breeds work of the Alsace Open Air Museum (Écomusée d'Alsace) as its case study, the talk will examine how such scales are an essential component of food production in today's world. They capture both the upstream and downstream aspects of our food sources and reveal field to plate processes in a comprehensible sweep easily utilized by any museum with adequate land and facilities.

15 **Pierre Del Porto**, President, Fédération des Musées d'Agriculture et du Patrimoine Rural

Journées de Patrimoines de Pays et des Moulins: An AFMA Partnership Project on Mills and Rural Heritage

15 **Mingqian Liu**, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Architecture, Texas A&M University

Preservation Education and Heritage Interpretation at Texas Cotton Gin Museum

**15 minute
break**

Session 9 **ROUNDTABLE SESSION: Using Collections to Inspire 'Farming Futures'**

15.30-16.15 **Chair: Ollie Douglas**

This session will comprise brief 5-minute-long comments from each panel member, followed by open questions and discussion.

45 minutes **Pete Watson**, Director, [Howell Living History Farm](#)

Dick Roosenberg, Founder, Tillers International

Paul Starkey, Transport Consultant / Visiting Research Fellow at The MERL

Atenchong Talleh Nkobou, PhD Candidate, University of Reading

[Winani Thebele, Chief Curator and Head of Ethnology, Botswana National Museum – TBC]

This session explores how museums, agricultural heritage, and 'living history', might play a role in addressing food security, locally and globally, past and present. Tillers International have used collections to inspire animal-powered road-grading equipment in Nicaragua, farm equipment in Mozambique, Madagascar and Burkina Faso, and technology for community-supported agriculture schemes. Howell Farm's operations and public programming provide internships in sustainable agriculture. In other contexts, decolonial approaches to overseas development and to the history of agricultural extension raise serious questions about the relationship between Global South and Global North, past and present.

DAY 4 – Sunday 25 July

This session will be informal. Format and timing will be confirmed in due course. The session will focus on bread-making and on foraging and processing wild foods in advance of a 'Commons Feast' at the launch of ['The Commons: Re-Enchanting The World'](#) gallery intervention on 30 July.

DAY 5 – Monday 26 July

Session 10 **ORDINARY SESSION: Understanding museums, objects, and sites**

13.00-14.00 **Chair: Kerry-Leigh Burchill**

This session will comprise 10-minute-long pre-recorded papers, each followed by 5 minutes of live questions and discussion.

15 mins **Joao P. R. Joaquim**, University of Cambridge

The AIMA: A Transnational History of Agriculture and Museums in C20th Europe

15 mins **Marie-Christine Aubin**, Independent Researcher

The Advertising Arsenal of the Chilean "Salitre" (Saltpeter)

15 mins **Anne Jorunn Froyen**, Curator of History, [Jærmuseet](#)

Insects and Pesticides: A Norwegian Case Study

15 mins **Abel Vergneaux**, Deputy General Secretary, [Museum of Agricultural Machinery and Rurality](#)

Conserving and Restoring Heritage and Agricultural Machinery

**15 minute
break**

Session 11 **The AIMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY is likely to take place at the close of business. Key questions will be pre-circulated for consideration by the membership and votes tallied and announced during this session.**

14.15-15.00

END

Friday 30 July

'Commons Feast' and Project Launch evening event

1.5 hours total (start time to be confirmed) This digital 'Late' welcomes and invites participants to join in with their own foraged and wild foods and homemade breads in a 'Commons Feast' to celebrate the launch of '[The Commons: Re-Enchanting The World](#)' gallery intervention at The MERL. The event will include hands-on activities to try at home, live-streamed tours, and artist-led performances and interventions.

The following content may also be pre-recorded and made available via YouTube at the time of the Congress, subject to discussion with speakers

Ollie Douglas, President of the AIMA / Curator of Collections, [The MERL](#)

Presidential Address: Agricultural Museums Past, Present, and Future

Chantal Bisschop, [Centre for Agrarian History, KU Leuven](#)

Draft Horse Techniques In The Picture: Audio-Visual Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage in a Participatory Way

Anna Barłóg-Mitmańska, Curator, National Museum of Agriculture in Szreniawa

Memories of Polish Agricultural Workers From 1900 to 1945: A Topic From Rural Social History

Chris Green, Independent Researcher

An Historical Dictionary of Agricultural Handtools



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