



CHAT|HOPE



Preliminary Program

29-31 October 2026 | University of Innsbruck, Austria

<https://hopechat.chat-arch.org/>

hosted by [CHAT](#) and [UIBK/Department for Archaeologies](#)

at the [Aula of the University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, 6020 Innsbruck, 1st floor](#)

Time / Session	Title	Presenters
DAY 1 29 October 2026		
09.00–09.15	CHAT Opening and Welcome of Participants	Organising Team
Session 1	<i>Hope Within Total Institutions</i>	
09.15–09.35	Hope in Captivity	Claudia Theune, University of Vienna
09.35–09.55	Gardens of Hope: Archaeological Excavation and Restoration at a World War II Japanese American Confinement Site	Jeff Burton, National Park Service, Manzanar National Historic Site
09.55–10.15	Numbering in Nazi Concentration Camps as a Material Practice: Control and Hope in an Archaeological Perspective	Tommy Theine, Barbara Hausmair & TAGS-Team, University of Innsbruck
10.15–10.30	Discussion	
10.30–11.00	~ Coffee Break ~	
Session 2	<i>Hope During and After War</i>	
11.00–11.20	Götterdämmerung 1945: Survival Strategies of German Archaeologists and Historians in the Czech Lands at the End of the War and the Beginning of Peace	Jan Hasil, Institute of Archaeology of the CAS, Prague
11.20–11.40	Hope in the Liberated Pilsen 1945: Archaeology of the 109th Evacuation Hospital	Pavel Vařeka, James Symonds, Tomáš Pancíř, Roman Křivánek, Petr Netolický & Zdeňka Vařeková, University of West Bohemia

Time / Session	Title	Presenters
11.40–12.00	The Heritage of Hope in a North American Small Town During the Cold War	William Caraher & Susan Caraher, University of North Dakota & Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission
12.00–12.15	Discussion	
12.15–13.45	~ Lunch Break ~	
Session 3 <i>Urban Communities and Hope</i>		
13.45–14.05	Futures in Ruins, or the Multigenerational Project(s) of Imagining Worlds in Rubble (Film)	Patricia G. Markert, University of Western Ontario
14.05–14.25	Hope as Method: Materialising Hope During the PhD	Brodhie M. I. Molloy, University of Leicester, United Kingdom
14.25–14.45	Can Domestic Material Culture Be a Symbol of Hope Against Coloniality? Reflections from Lima, Peru	Aldo Accinelli Obando, University of Amsterdam
14.45–15.00		
15.00–15.30	~ Coffee Break ~	
Session 4 <i>Jouyful Hope</i>		
15.30–15.50	Peace, Love, and What Was Left Over: Hints on Counterculture from a 1980s Waste Assemblage from Schloss Trautson (Tyrol, Austria)?	Elisabeth Waldhart, University of Innsbruck
15.50–16.10	Rural Dance Venues in 20th-Century Finland – Archaeology of Encounters in a Dwindling Countryside	Aleksi Kelloniemi, University of Oulu
16.10–16.30	The Ski Village: A Materiality of Hope at Sheffield’s Most Flammable Attraction	Rebecca Hearne
16.30–16.45	Film: “Compared to All Other Swimming Fellow Creatures Man Performs Miserably”	Sefryn Penrose & Angela Piccini, Bureau for the Contemporary & Historic (ButCH)
16.45–17.00	Discussion	
17.00–18.00	~ Break ~	
Session 5 <i>Posters & Installations</i>		
18.00–19.00	Foyer Artwork	Frances Marr & Carolyn Marr, University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney
-	Houses of Hope: The Biographies of Two Houses in Zagori (NW Greece)	Faidon Moudopoulos-Athanasίου
-	Yarn Charms: Creative Grounds for Hope	Susan Pearson, University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney
-	The Paper Project: Community Building Through Upcycling	Natalia Sawicka, University of Wrocław
-	Unboxing the Collection: Repurposing Dormant Archives as Creative Teaching and Learning Tools	Laura Thompson, University of Manchester
-	Flags Is It? Signalling Hope	Lara Band, Historic England

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-	What Would the Holy Ten Say? Modern Transformations of a Small Cretan Village	Anna Bertelli, Ruhr University Bochum
-	Long-Term Genealogies of Solidarity: Women, Memory, and Materiality in the Upper Ribeira Valley (São Paulo, Brazil)	Marianne Sallum, Marina Gomes, Lúcia Aparecida, Francisco S. Noelli, Wendel Dalitesi
-	Resistance and Hope: Exploring the Influence of Greek Antifascist Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War	Jaime Almansa-Sánchez, Ali Zahid, Faidon Moudopoulos-Athanasiou, Pablo Gutiérrez de León Juberías, Alejandra Galmés, Nota Pantzou, Anna Rosenberg
-	Unfree Labour in the Penitentiary of Stuttgart	Lennart Schmarsli, University of Tübingen
	Resisting hostile border policies in the southern North Sea: Towards a creative public archaeology of clandestine Channel crossings	Adam Swennen, independent archaeologist
-	Hope Against Erasure: Memory and Science in the 'Lexicon of Katyn Archaeology' Project	Olgierd Ławrynowicz, Aleksandra Krupa-Ławrynowicz & Sebastian Latocha
19.00–21.00	CHAT & UIBK Evening Reception with fingerfood, drinks and music	
late night	Pub Time at Zappa	
DAY 230 October 2026		
Session 6	<i>Messianic Hope</i>	
09.00–09.20	Maria Spes Mea – Hope and Divine Assistance on Medieval Swords from the Tyrolean Region (12th–15th Century)	Florian Messner, University of Innsbruck
09.20–09.40	Charnel Houses Between Pragmatism and the Hope for Physical Resurrection on the Day of Judgement	Stefanie Heim, University of Innsbruck
09.40–10.00	Aching Societies, Radical Hope, and the Roots of the Capitalocene in Oceania: The Late 17th-Century Colonisation of the Mariana Islands	Matilde Carbajo, Pompeu Fabra University
10.00–10.15		
10.15–10.45	~ Coffee Break ~	
Session 7	<i>Displacement and Hope</i>	
10.45–11.05	Archaeology and the Restoration of Dignity: The Case of the Italians of Patras	Nota Pantzou & Francesca Plateroti, University of Patras & Independent Researcher
11.05–11.25	Hope Documented: Traces of Refugees on Lampedusa	Geesche Wilts, Carl-Albrechts-Universität Kiel

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11.25–11.45	Unexpected Hope in Greece's Borderlands: Reinterpreting Material Traces of Undocumented Migration	Johannes Jungfleisch, Ruhr University Bochum
11.45-12.05	N.N.	Anonymous
12.05-12.20		
12.20-14.00	~ Lunch Break ~	
Session 8 <i>Environmental Hope 1/2</i>		
14.00-14.20	Between Rubble and Rajya: Archaeology of Infrastructure and Resistance in Ayodhya, India	Laaraib Ghazi, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
14.20-14.40	Enduring Ephemera: Material Repetition as Resistance to US Nuclear Policy	Ella Goulding, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
14.40-15.00	A Hope and a Host Rock	Alexander Kolibaba, University of Fribourg, Department of Geosciences
15.00-15.15	Discussion	
15.15-15.45	~ Coffee Break ~	
Session 9 <i>Environmental Hope 2/2</i>		
15.45–16.05	Radical Starch	Claartje Rasterhoff & Christian Ersten, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
16.05–16.25	Hope in a Landscape of Extraction and Coercion: The Guaneras of Mejillones, Northern Chile	Catalina Soto Rodríguez*, Alejandra Didier Pérez* & Wilfredo Santoro Cerda**, *Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano & **Consejo Patrimonial de Mejillones
16.25–16.45	The Transition to Renewable Energy: A New Hope or the Same Old Story?	Dan Lee*, Mark Jenkins**, Antonia Thomas*, Anne Bevan*, David Atkinson***, Jen Harland*, *University of the Highlands and Islands, ***Independent Researcher, ***University of Hull
16.45-17.00	Discussion	
17.00-18.00	~ Break ~	
Session 10 <i>Movies</i>		
18.00–19.00	Movie: What's Left Lasting	Lucy Carr-McClave
18.00–19.00	Geography of an Archive	Nicole Khayat & Vesna Lukic, Middlesex University & Independent Scholar
DAY 3 31 October 2026		
Session 11 <i>Queering Hope</i>		

Time / Session	Title	Presenters
09.00–09.20	Excavation Futures: Hope, Trans-Temporality, and Speculative Archaeologies of a 21st-Century Trans+ Community Centre	Owen Hurcum & Helmut De Nardi, University of York + Trans+ Learning Lab CIC
09.20–09.40	Hoping for the Future, Materializing Other Pasts	Sandra Montón-Subías, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
09.40–10.00	Who Tells Your Story? Diversifying Narratives of the Past Through Storytelling as an Archaeological Method	Hanna Steyne, University of Manchester
10.00–10.15		
10.15–10.45	~ Coffee Break ~	
Session 12 <i>Hope and Town Transformations</i>		
10.45–11.05	Hope! The Core of Contemporary Archaeology	Jobbe Wijnen, independent contemporary archaeologist
11.05–11.25	The Old Ghosts of NewTown: Can Neoliberal Development be Hope? For Whom? A Case Study in Kolkata, India	Anena Majumdar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
11.25–11.45	“The Hope of the Indigenous Is Absolutely Revolutionary”: Approaching Pluriversal Politics and Development Failures in the Andes	Francesco Orlandi, University of Macerata and University of Exeter
11.45–12.00	Discussion	
12.00–13.30	~ Lunch Break ~	
13.30–14.30	Roundtable: Is There Hope for Contemporary Archaeology?	Laura McAtackney, Sarah May, Susan Pollock, Caroline Jaus, Thomas Meier & Andreas Pantazatos, moderated by Attila Dézsi Schlingmann
14.30–15.00	General Discussion and Goodbys	
15.00–15.30	~ END OF CONFERENCE except for workshop participants ~	
15.30–17.00	Seeing the Wild Possibilities of Domestic and Captive Animals: A Workshop Activity	April M. Beisaw & Konstantina Saliari, Vassar College, USA & Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria
17.00–18.00	Meeting of the CHAT Standing Committee (Open to Everyone Interested)	

Please note that this is a preliminary program which is subject to change until all speakers have confirmed their attendance.