



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Power and Possession

AHRC International Conference 2026

The Queen's College, Oxford

We are excited to announce that the 11th AHRC International Conference will take place from **14-16 September 2026**, in Oxford. Supported by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP, the conference brings together doctoral students across the arts and humanities from OOC and our international partners. Our aim is to provide an open and exciting space for scholars to try out ideas, establish new connections, and explore the value of interdisciplinary work.

This year, the organising committee invites proposals on the theme of **Power and Possession**. Power relations, rights, and ownership are central to research in the arts and humanities; without these disciplines, we cannot make sense of power. Everyday experiences are shaped by force, institutions, and ideology, and power influences both the production of knowledge and our access to it. Possession, in turn, is fundamental to power. Historic ownership of land and people has shaped the present we inherit, and the future demands that we wrestle with possession in the digital world. Possession and power are themes found on the micro-, meso-, and macroscales, ranging from local conflict between individuals to outright global war.

We encourage potential participants to interpret these themes broadly and explore them creatively. Proposals should be made for 20-minute presentations but are not limited to academic-style talks. We invite contributions from the visual and performing arts, and alternative formats might include a poster, short film, workshop, or performance (for inquiries, email training@oocdtp.ac.uk). The conference will provide a constructive space for doctoral students, and we especially welcome submissions from speakers with limited conference experience. An online webinar will be held on **Tuesday 21 April** to provide more information about the submission process and support for those with less experience; details will be circulated later.

Submissions might explore:

- War, nationalism, and global conflict as a question of national ownership
- Language and literature as an assertion of epistemic possession
- Historiography and the right to claim the past as one's own
- Histories of the wielding or breakdown of power and possession
- Art and architecture as expressions or critiques of power and possession
- Possession in archives, libraries, museums, and collections
- Philosophical conceptions of power in political theory and epistemology
- Legal rights and their role in shaping power and possession

To apply, please fill out [this form](#) by **Friday 8 May 2026**.