



# Gorffennol Digidol Digital Past - 2021

## THE FUTURE OF HISTORY:

### Strengthening public histories through digital interventions

Chao Tayiana Maina, [African Digital Heritage](#)

For many communities whose history has been misrepresented, suppressed and erased, digital tools have today presented new ways of engaging with history outside dominant paradigms. Digital spaces and platforms have provided an outlet for minority communities to talk about their frustrations with how their history is told. While at the same time giving many the opportunity to speak about their own pasts through their own lens. What we're seeing today is a proliferation of social media accounts, blogs and vlogs on multiple platforms curating content on African history. What does this mean for the future of history, as audiences teach and learn from each other?

In this talk we explore the role that public digital history is playing in changing perspectives on African pasts. These audience led approaches to history and memory making are drawing in new audiences and creating much needed spaces for dialogue at different levels of society. We ask, what tools do we need to encourage and strengthen this culture of public participation in a sector previously dominated by specialist voices and Eurocentric paradigms? How do we measure the impact of these digital collections and interactions? And how can museums and cultural institutions become spaces that facilitate these discussions?

## Biography

Chao Tayiana Maina is a Kenyan digital heritage specialist and digital humanities scholar working at the intersection of culture and technology. She is the founder of African Digital

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Heritage a Kenya based non-profit organisation founded to encourage a more critical, holistic and knowledge-based approach to the design and implementation of digital solutions within African cultural heritage. She is also a co-founder of the online initiative, Museum of British Colonialism and a co-founder of the Open Restitution Africa project. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Reuters, BBC news, BBC Arts, Ntv, KBC and 3Sat.