

Wed, 13th Sep 2023  
at 6.00-8.00pm

**FREE ENTRY**

Venue  
**IET Savoy Place**

## The Congruence Engine project: the aims, practice and implications of applying computational techniques to industrial heritage collections at the Science Museum Group and beyond.

This talk explores work led by the Science Museum Group, through its Congruence Engine project, to link digitised collections across museums, tell new stories about the UK's industrial heritage, and open up possibilities for research.

There is a growing expectation of digital access to cultural heritage collections, including those that contain the histories of industry and technical innovation. This need has been met by investment in digitisation, but museum collections remain unevenly described and often siloed.

Researchers and curators have become used to a world where it is only possible to work with a small selection of the sources – museum objects, archive documents, pictures, films, maps or publications – potentially relevant to the histories they want to explore. The Congruence Engine project will overcome this major constraint on the stories that can be created and shared with the wider public in museums and online.

The project team are using computational and AI techniques to create and refine datasets, provide routes between records and digital objects such as scans and photographs, and building tools that connect and enrich collections held by a range of different museums and archives.

In this talk, Dr Tim Boon will describe the aims of the project and showcase the three main strands of research, which focus on textiles, energy and communications respectively. Dr Alex Butterworth will discuss the digital history techniques developed within the project, present case studies that highlight the transformative nature of the research. Prof Jane Winters will talk about the implications of this research for individuals and institutions, including new ethical considerations that arise from the connection and analysis of data at scale.

### Programme:

18.00-18.30 - Registration  
18.30-19.30 - Speakers take to stage  
19.30-20.00 - Audience Q&A  
20.00-21.00 - Network Reception

### Contact

**Rimesh Patal,**  
[Rimesh.Patel@ietvolunteer.org](mailto:Rimesh.Patel@ietvolunteer.org)

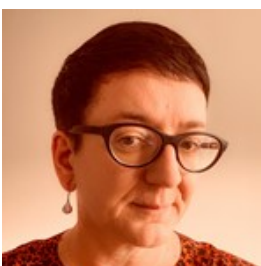
Book your place at

<https://localevents.theiet.org/ea1b72>

**[theiet.org/communities](https://theiet.org/communities)**



**Dr Tim Boon**, Head of Research and Public History of the Science Museum Group



**Dr Alex Butterworth**, Senior Research Fellow in Digital Public History



**Prof. Jane Winters**, Chair of Digital Humanities Research Hub - School of Advanced Study, University of London