

19 October 2023

Today for Tomorrow – Tasks and Challenges of Conservation Science

- 16.00 Welcome
Gabriela Krist, Head of IoC
- 16.05 Climate change and outdoor stone monuments
Marija Milchin, Senior Conservator IoC | Doctoral Student IoC
- 16.35 Game changer: CO2 balancing in museums?
Tanja Kimmel, Senior Conservator IoC | Doctoral Student IoC
- 17.05 Enjoying cultural heritage sustainably: How can the awareness of tourists at Schönbrunn Palace be influenced towards responsible behaviour in its historical state rooms?
Marie-Christine Pachler, Senior Conservator Schönbrunn Palace | Doctoral Student IoC

What challenges and tasks will conservators and conservation scientists face in the future? Changing climatic conditions are reflected in altered damage mechanisms; in some regions, climate-induced degradation and weathering will proceed faster than before. It is therefore necessary to forecast, investigate and evaluate damage processes to develop proposals for solutions.

The sustainability debate has long reached museums and storage facilities. Ecological, economic, and socially relevant preservation strategies are needed, these should also be sustainable. After a brief interruption due to the pandemic, mass tourism has once again become a problem in many places. The concentrated influx of visitors to (World) Heritage sites leads to damage and destruction of cultural assets.

Today, the climate crisis, sustainability, and mass tourism are among the major challenges in conservation science and restoration. The lectures will present three different dissertation projects that highlight the current broad spectrum of conservation science.

9 November 2023

Investigation of Art and Cultural Objects ... Why?

- 16.00 Welcome
Gabriela Krist, Head of IoC
- 16.05 The role and task of the natural sciences in the conservation of works of art
Tatjana Bayerova, Senior Scientist IoC
- 16.35 Application of different analytical methods for the identification of the materials used on the Imperial Crown
Teresa Lamers, Research Associate KHM | Doctoral Student IoC
- 17.05 Microscopy of mineral artefacts in conservation and archaeology
Johannes Weber, Professor IoC | Petrologist
- 17.33 Live-Demonstration „X-ray fluorescence analysis for cultural heritage research“
Alexandra Rodler-Rørbo, Senior Lecturer IoC

Conservation science and conservation are located at the interface of humanistic, natural scientific and artistic disciplines and practical interventions. The natural sciences play an important role in this interdisciplinary debate in order to analyse and identify the material and technological structure of art and cultural property, as well as to understand and establish damage mechanisms - a fundamental prerequisite for the development of conservation and restoration concepts and preservation strategies. Furthermore, they offer assistance in questions of provenance and dating. Today, non-destructive examination methods are preferable to invasive analysis with sampling.

The presented interdisciplinary research project CROWN deals with the many open questions around the Imperial Crown and its countless gemstones, pearls and enamels. Imaging analyses reveal the composition, structure and manufacturing technology of stone, mortar and ceramics from ancient to modern times, while portable X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy can non-destructively measure the materiality and composition of various objects. Because each work of art is original and therefore unique, this applied research presents a fascinating, rich, and diverse range of scientific challenges, yielding new and often surprising results and insights.

16 November 2023

The Heritage of the World and UNESCO World Heritage – Conservation goes International

- 16.00 Welcome
Gabriela Krist, UNESCO Chair on Conservation and Preservation of Tangible Cultural Heritage | Head of IoC
- 16.05 Welcome
Florian Meixner, Programme Specialist for World Heritage and Protection of Cultural Property, Austrian Commission for UNESCO
- 16.15 Introduction
Bruno Maldoner, Honorary Professor IoC
- 16.25 Conservation practice within a living World Heritage site: The Patan Durbar Square in Nepal
Martina Haselberger, Research Associate IoC | Doctoral Student IoC
- 16.50 Conservation science research at the archaeological site of Ephesus (Turkey)
Barbara Rankl, Conservator | Doctoral Student IoC
- 17.15 UNOPS-led projects in Albania. Evacuation and conservation of cultural heritage
Meral Hietz, Senior Conservator IoC
- 17.40 Austria and Thailand: Together for 'Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management'
Tanushree Gupta, Research Associate IoC

The preservation of the world's cultural heritage, whether in Europe or Asia, is a central task of the Institute of Conservation and its UNESCO Chair. In 2004, the Institute's international activities began with the FWF research and conservation project in Nako, at an altitude of 4000 m in the Himalayas. From 2009 to the present, Patan Durbar Square and the Royal Palace, part of Nepal's UNESCO World Heritage Site, have been the focus of research conservation campaigns, as have the ethnographic museums and their collections of Kavaja and Kruja in Albania after the devastating earthquake of 2019.

Dissertations and research projects on World Heritage sites in Ephesus and Patan allow for basic research on the history of restoration and the development of methods and concepts for the conservation of these outstanding sites. The new Joint Master Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management has enriched the range of courses offered at Angewandte, with the primary aim of strengthening the development and expansion of conservation in Southeast Asia.

The lectures provide insight into conservation, research and capacity building on an international level, which require not only specialized knowledge, but also creativity and flexibility in practical work.

23 November 2023

Beyond University ... Professional life and projects from life after university

- 16.00 Welcome
Gabriela Krist, Head of IoC
- 16.05 Dealing with oil-soaked sculptures of princes and saints from St. Stephen's. From the cleaning concept to practical application
Anna-Maria Tupy, Senior Conservator | Graduate IoC
- 16.35 17th century ceremonial riding equipment from the Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace, Munich. Study and conservation
Katharina Mendl, Senior Conservator | Graduate IoC
- 17.05 From Walde to flea market. About the diversity of everyday life in a studio for painting conservation
Andrea Schrenk-Prandstätter, Senior Conservator | Graduate IoC
- 17.35 130 years of restoration of flags at the museum of military history
Nina Zangerl, Senior Conservator HGM | Graduate IoC
- 18.05 Natural sciences in stone conservation - The visual detection of consolidants in porous building materials and the problem of implementation in practice
Elisabeth Mascha, Senior Conservator | Graduate IoC

The working field of academic conservators is constantly evolving and expanding. In addition to practical conservation, assessments and surveys, the development of conservation concepts, and the formulation of preservation strategies for individual objects, ensembles, and collections, research in conservation, and collection care are just some of the many current areas of work.

Being a conservator means dealing with various objects with individual problems and reacting flexibly to the most diverse requirements of one's own field of activity. Graduates in conservation are characterized by scientific and practical skills, a responsible approach to art and cultural assets, and a methodical and structured approach.

In the lectures, alumni from the specialist areas of the diploma programme taught at the Angewandte, conservation of paintings, objects, textiles and stone, provide insights into their everyday work.