



International Conference of ICOMOS

Conservation Ethics Today: Are our Conservation-Restoration Theories and Practice ready for the 21st Century?

Florence, Auditorium al Duomo, via de' Cerretani 54/R
1 – 3 March 2018

In cooperation with the *Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco*[®] and
International Institute Life Beyond Tourism[®], Florence
With the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee *Theory and Philosophy of
Conservation and Restoration*,
The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee *Stone and
The ICOMOS German National Scientific Committee Conservation and Restoration of Wall
Paintings and Architectural Surfaces*
With the partnership of the *European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers'
Organisation E.C.C.O.*
And with the support of
ENCoRE (*European Network of Conservation-Restoration Education*)
The Italian and German Professional Associations of Conservator-Restorers
A.R.I. *Associazione Restauratori d'Italia* and
VDR *Verband der Restauratoren*,
The National Italian Conservation Institute *Opificio delle Pietre Dure OPD* in Florence,
The *Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut*, Florence
And other institutions.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference will focus on the relationships between theory and practice of conservation-restoration in the field of heritage preservation, considering the positions and developments of the twentieth century for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Particular attention will be directed to architectural heritage, its surroundings and its fittings, such as architectural surfaces and wall paintings, stuccos, decorative elements in stone, majolica, ceramic, etc. Contributions and discussions will deal with experiences and perspectives of conservation-restoration, especially in European heritage preservation. This is due to the conference's involvement in the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) program 2018. A critical look from outside Europe is welcomed and expected to provide important input and fresh perspectives.

The ethics of conservation concern issues of the relationship between objects and actors, i.e. between our heritage and the professionals dealing with heritage preservation. Ethical principles as a basis for developing appropriate methods and techniques of conservation-restoration are required. These applied ethics are closely connected with the professional



ethics of conservator-restorers and of all other specialists involved in the preservation of architectural heritage. The conference will pay attention to improving interdisciplinary cooperation between conservator-restorers, architects, craftsmen, art historians, building archaeologists, conservation scientists, and all others active in this field. With reference to everyday practice, the discussion will deal with the specific professional profiles and tasks of all these specialists and try to increase the quality of communication and co-operation.

The conference contributions shall establish a close contact between theoretical positions and their significance for the practice of conservation-restoration. The conference aims to offer a forum for discussion between professionals with various specializations, including students and young professionals active in the field of heritage preservation. Florence presents excellent potential for visits on site, with the possibility to evaluate famous conservation-restorations of the last decades and to study current conservation-restoration projects. In this context, one of the central issues will focus on historical, ethical, and aesthetic aspects dealing with the fragment and the possibilities of integration and presentation, with reference to theories and practice of conservation-restoration in the twentieth century and the perspectives of today.

In the course of the European Year of Cultural Heritage EYCH 2018, the issues and goals of the Florence conference will be continued and deepened by various regional European workshops that focus on specific local problems and demands of conservation-restoration, optimally with historical and current case studies. The aim is to organize these workshops with the support of ICOMOS National Committees and national professional organizations. The intent of these workshops is to strengthen the European network for interdisciplinary exchange and co-operation in the field of conservation-restoration of architectural heritage, its surfaces and fittings.

The **Call for Papers** encompasses the following issues, to be analyzed within an interdisciplinary context and referenced with practical examples of heritage conservation (short case study presentations of 10-12 minutes and comprehensive presentations of ca. 20 minutes, dealing with fundamental issues, are requested):

- Re-thinking conservation-restoration theories of the twentieth century in the early twenty-first century:

The discussion will refer to established theories of the twentieth century—for example, those of Alois Riegl, Georg Dehio, Cesare Brandi and Umberto Baldini, just to name some of the most famous ones - and their influences on current theoretical standpoints as well as on conservation-restoration practice in the last century and today. The outstanding importance of international charters and principles - such as the Charter of Venice or the Document of Nara - for the theory and practice of conservation-restoration will be considered in this context.

In a European framework, different regional and national traditions in conservation-restoration will also be discussed, together with their theoretical foundation, their methods and practice, and their present-day developments. For the global and regional needs of today, the practical relevance of theories in conservation-restoration will be analyzed.

The critical evaluation of the present-day reception and interpretation of the theories of the twentieth century will consider current developments connected with broadly based



definitions of architectural and cultural heritage in general, in light of a changing society with new cultural and social values. Because of these developments, new approaches are required in addition to the proven methods and techniques in the practice of conservation-restoration, for example in the preservation of post-war architecture and its fittings, industrial heritage, and others areas.

- Meaning and practical relevance of ethics in the conservation-restoration of heritage today:

In everyday practice, the importance of conservation ethics is increasing. This phenomenon is closely connected to the establishment of conservation-restoration as a scientific discipline in the course of the twentieth century, with the goal to base methods and techniques of intervention on philosophical, historical, and scientific foundations. What is the difference between ethics and theories of conservation-restoration? Are complex philosophical definitions and lines of arguments too far removed from the everyday needs of a speedily changing society? Can applied ethics match better with multilayered social requirements and the operative practice of today, or are they quite simply en vogue because they are apparently “easy” to manage? When dealing with conservation ethics, do we need new precise definitions of terms and concepts, or can we revive and develop those of the “classical” theories of conservation-restoration? What is the role of conservation ethics amid the increasing importance of applied ethics in other scientific disciplines, and how is it developed for current political and social requirements?

- Critical historical evaluation of prominent case studies in conservation-restoration in the twentieth century in Europe (with a focus on architectural heritage and its fittings, i.e. wall paintings, architectural surfaces, stone, stucco, majolica, ceramics, etc.):

What can we learn from these experiences, how can we deal with their results today from various points of view (current state of preservation, problems of historical conservation techniques, aesthetic and social aspects, etc.), considering their historical values and their aesthetic message as well as social and scientific demands of today? Considering prominent European examples of conservation and restoration in the twentieth century, a central issue is how to deal with the fragment and the possibilities of integration from a historical and aesthetic point of view, including the needs of conservation. The evaluation of integration methodologies and techniques of the twentieth century may also rekindle a critical debate about virtual methods of integration and other perspectives offered by digital technologies.

- Professional ethics and tasks for conservator-restorers in Europe today, in the preservation of heritage:

Considering the development of scientific conservation-restoration and the improvement of academic education for conservator-restorers in the course of the twentieth century, we'll analyze the professional position of conservator-restorers and their role in the interdisciplinary cooperation with other professionals dealing with the preservation of cultural heritage. How does cooperation run in the planning stage and on site, in theory and practice? How can we differentiate between the specific professional contributions of conservator-restorers and the activities of other professionals in the field of heritage preservation? How can we improve communication and interdisciplinary cooperation between all professionals involved?



Critical contributions are welcome with an analysis of conservation-restoration concepts and practice from changing professional perspectives, in view of the challenges of heritage management and quality assurance.

The legal position of conservator-restorers with respect to professional chambers and associations is another important issue that exerts a great influence on the outcome of professional practice and is therefore very worthy of evaluation at this conference.

Schedule of the conference

February 28, 2018 – Welcome Dinner

March 1-2, 2018 – conference full-time program

March 3, 2018 – visits on site in Florence and Surroundings

The fees for the conference will be published in September 2017.

Please take note: in March 3 and 4, 2018, the 20th General Assembly of Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco® “Heritage for Planet Earth® 2018” is held and all participants are invited to join it. Read here the conclusions of the 19th General Assembly “Heritage for Planet Earth® 2017”

Language of the conference: the official language of the conference is English.

NOTE: The participation to the conference is subject to the payment of a registration fee which includes the presence to the working sessions and coffee breaks of each day. Conference fees will be published in September 2017.

Poster Session on Ethics of Conservation-Restoration for students:

A Call for Posters (session to be connected to the Florence conference and to the various European workshops) will be distributed to all European Universities and Institutes with study courses on Conservation-Restoration, with the support of ENCoRE.

The language of the posters is English, with translations in the national languages for the regional European workshops

Publication of the papers:

After the conference an electronic publication of the conference papers will be realized, including also the results of discussions and the poster session (in English with summaries in German and Italian). It will be published on the official websites of Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco® and International Institute Life Beyond Tourism® (and also on issuu.com/istitutointernazionalelbt).

Scientific Secretariat for the application of the Call for Papers:

Please send a short CV (max. 15 lines) and an abstract (max. 2 pages) of your suggested contribute to the Email address

conservation-ethics-today@icomos.de

Until October 31, 2017

Webpage of the conference: <http://www.lifebeyondtourism.org/evento/1023>