

ACR CONFERENCE 2019 PROGRAMME

09:30 Registration Opens

Conference Opens

10:00 Welcome & Introductions
Sandra Smith ACR
Head of Collections Care, British Museum

Session 1 | Advocacy

10:10 HS2 and collaboration in the heritage sector
Helen Wass, Head of Heritage, HS2

Before we build the bridges, tunnels, tracks and stations for HS2 an unprecedented amount of archaeological work will take place – the largest ever programme of investigation in the UK. We can only achieve this through collaboration with our stakeholders and supply chain. My talk will outline the opportunities and challenges that HS2 offers in terms of knowledge creation, engagement and legacy. With site works now underway there will be recent discoveries to share.

10:40 'Making an impact' an effective conservation partnership for small independent museums
Emma Chaplin, Director, AIM
Justeen Stone, Programmes & Finance Officer, AIM

The Association of Independent has over 1000 member museums across the UK who care for a large and significant range of historic objects and collections. They range from fine art collections to locomotives, textiles to ships, decorative art and social and industrial history collections. Over 70% of our members have fewer than 20k visitors a year and struggle to find the resources and expertise to meet their collections care and conservation needs. AIM's partnership with the Pilgrim Trust over the last 10 years and, more recently, with Icon, has developed a complementary range of grant schemes from audit to collections care to remedial work. Emma Chaplin, AIM Director and Justeen Stone, Programmes and Finance Officer, will explore the impact of the schemes and lessons learned for both museums and conservators.

11:10 Take me to your Leader!
Ylva Dahnsjo ACR, Director, Ylva Dahnsjo Conservation

This paper will consider collaborative working in various contexts, and its complicated and rewarding inter-relationships. It will compare and contrast the pan-disciplinary structures of major conservation organisations with recent large projects in the private sector, where conservation is only one part of the jigsaw. It will chart the exhilarating roller-coaster rides of working for clients who are themselves an integral part of the material culture and it will try to “see ourselves as others see us”, and to talk about the secret symbols among professional groups.

11:30 Question & Answer

11:45 Coffee Break

Session 2 | Excellence

12:05 Exeter cathedral medieval stained glass

Steve Clare ACR, Director, Holywell Glass

In 2018, as part of the cathedral's medium and long term conservation planning, architect Camilla Findlay commissioned Steve Clare to carry out a full condition survey of all of the stained glass in the cathedral. The Clerk of Works Chris Sampson, and cathedral archaeologist John Allan gave generous assistance to the survey process. Steve will discuss his experiences of working as part of this collaborative project and how he brought in additional expertise to contribute towards this important project.

12:25 Using an ATP hygiene monitoring kit and USB microscope to identify mould on archival documents

Natalie Brown, Senior Conservation Manager - Engagement, The National Archives

Mould in archival collections is a common challenge. Conservators are often required to identify mould and make treatment decisions based on nothing more than analysis of the affected document with the naked eye. As mould cleaning of archival documents can be costly and time-consuming, conservators need a quick tool that improves the accuracy of identification. Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) hygiene monitoring kits are used extensively in the health care and food and beverage industry to measure surface cleanliness. They are rapid, non-destructive tests that quantify the presence of ATP molecules, which are found in all life forms. As ATP is present in fungi, complementary research projects were undertaken with researchers from the National Trust to adapt testing procedures to identify mould in paper collections. Through this knowledge sharing opportunity we were able to support each other's findings, share data and resources in order to adapt this technology in two different contexts. Natalie's talk will discuss how the test was adapted to be used in combination with a USB microscope, considerations when using different testing kit types, the protocols created and the pilot study at the National Archives to introduce the method to inform decision making on conservation treatments.

12:45 Developing a sector-wide toolkit for workforce research

Anni Mäntyniemi, Policy & Communications Manager, Icon
Stephen O'Reilly, Director, Loud Marketing

Throughout 2019, Icon has been working with Loud Marketing, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England to develop a Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) toolkit that will enable the collection, analysis and reporting of LMI within the heritage sector. The project aims to empower heritage organisations with a mechanism to independently conduct workforce research on a regular basis and to provide data that can be cross-referenced and compared across different subsectors. Anni and Stephen will present the results of the project and outline the central role collaborative working played in delivering a toolkit that is relevant and accessible to all bodies and organisations wishing to survey the heritage workforce.

13:05 Question & Answer

12:20 Lunch

Session 3 | Engagement

14:20 **Cross disciplinary in Conservation**
Dr Renata Peters, Associate Professor in Conservation, UCL

Regardless of specialism, the conservation process today can be described as a cross-disciplinary and recursive. This talk will draw on archaeology, ethnography, contemporary art and cross-disciplinary teaching to explore implications of cross-disciplinarity for conservation thinking, practice and training.

14:40 **Integrating Refugees into a Conservation Volunteer Team**
Dr Christian Baars ACR, Senior Preventive Conservator, National Museum Wales

In 2016 National Museum Cardiff broke new ground when the first refugee was integrated into its Preventive Conservation volunteer team. The team had only been set up one year previously and had recently started operating in galleries during opening hours with the intention of increasing public engagement with conservation activities. The introduction of a refugee from Eritrea was undertaken with careful planning and only after preparing both the refugee and the volunteer team. Taking time to plan this process paid off, because integration was almost seamless and had positive impacts on the refugee, the volunteer team and the museum. The volunteer team operated as before the introduction and continued to make important contributions to the care of collections in stores and public galleries. The refugee had his asylum claim approved and eventually moved on into paid work.

15:00 **Training prisoners and ex-prisoners in textiles and fine needlework**
Dr Katy Emck OBE, Founding Director, Fine Cell Work
Wendy Cramer, Workshops and Training Manager, Fine Cell Work

Fine Cell Work is a charity which trains and pays prisoners and ex-offenders to create high quality, hand-embroidered and quilted products which are commissioned by and sold to museums, interior designers, artists and private customers. This talk will outline the process by which these products are made; as well as the numerous collaborations with prisons and probation, other charities, training, arts and rehabilitation organisations and businesses willing to employ ex-offenders, which are necessary in order to successfully train and rehabilitate offenders through the making of textile products.

15:20 **Question & Answer**

15:30 **Coffee Break**

Session 4 | Quick Fire Presentations

15:45 **National Trust 'Hands On or Hands Off Project'**
Catriona Ward ACR, Ward & Co.

15:55 **Working toward being a welcomer as opposed to a gatekeeper'**
Peter Martindale ACR

16:05 TBC
Veronika Vlкова ACR

16:15 Redevelopment of the Conservation Register
Michael Nelles, Head of Membership, Icon

A call to action!

16:30 What does Accreditation mean to you?
Sarah Peek ACR, Director, Sarah Peek Conservation.

Closing Remarks

16:50 Closing Remarks
Sandra Smith ACR
Head of Collections Care, British Museum

17:00 Day Ends