

ACR CONFERENCE 2019

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Christian Baars ACR

Senior Preventive Conservator, National Museum Wales



Dr Christian Baars AMA ACR is the Senior Preventive Conservator at National Museum Cardiff. He worked as a palaeontological preparator before managing a programme of collection reviews in 18 Welsh museums to improve the use, visibility and conservation of collections. He has been coordinating the care of three million objects across five collection disciplines at National Museum Cardiff since 2014. Christian is Treasurer of the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries in Wales, and a member of the ICOM UK committee where he represents international aspects of the conservation profession. His interests lie in using multidisciplinary scientific enquiry to develop improvements for the care of museum collections, and in enhancing the public profile of heritage preservation.

Natalie Brown

Senior Conservation Manager – Engagement, The National Archives



Natalie is the Senior Conservation Manager – Engagement at The National Archives. In her role she leads on developing and managing programmes of public, academic and policy engagement, as well as researching the integration of new technologies into conservation practice. Prior to joining The National Archives, Natalie worked for the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science where she led the UK hub’s communication activities. Natalie trained as a paper conservator and heritage scientist and is currently completing her PhD at the Institute for Sustainable Heritage, University College London. Her thesis focuses on the assessment of near-infrared spectroscopy as a collection survey method for library collections. Her varied roles and research have led to a keen interest in data-driven research, accessible technologies and the assessment of impact in conservation practice. For the past four years Natalie has sat on the Icon Heritage Science Committee, and also sits on the National Heritage Science Forum Communities working group.

Emma Chaplin

Director, Association of Independent Museums



Emma Chaplin has worked in curatorial and senior management roles in independent and local authority museums in England and Wales for over 25 years as well as running a successful consultancy business, specialising in collections management and business planning. She has been Director of the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) since early 2018. AIM supports, champions and advises over 1000 member museums across the UK and is an Arts Council England Sector Support Organisation. AIM members range from some of the biggest attractions in the UK such as the Black Country Living Museum and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust through to small community museums that are run by volunteers. Emma holds the Fellowship of the Museums Association, is a Trustee of the Port Sunlight Village Trust and a member of the Canal and River Trust’s Museum Advisory Board.

Steve Clare ACR

Director, Holywell Glass



Steve Clare is stained glass conservator by Royal Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen. He is an Icon ACR accredited conservator, and national Stained Glass Adviser to the National Trust. Steve founded Holy Well Glass in 1995 after training at The Glasshouse in Fulham, and a decade working with Alfred Fisher at Chapel Studio. In a long career, he has supervised major projects at the cathedrals at Wells, Winchester and Exeter, and at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle as well as numerous parish churches, Steve has acted as consultant to some of the most significant buildings in England, including King's College Chapel at Cambridge. Holy Well Glass Limited, and Holy Well Design operate from a remarkable medieval water mill in the beautiful city of Wells in Somerset, with a large staff working on historic glass conservation and contemporary work, including collaborating with contemporary artists in the realisation of their creative works in glass.

Ylva Dahnsjo ACR

Director, Ylva Dahnsjo Conservation



Ylva Dahnsjo is an independent conservator, educator, and writer who works internationally with material culture. She is passionate about the environment and is convinced that conservators have a major role to play in sustainability by sharing their skills and insights widely. She has held senior management roles in major conservation charities and designed several large state-of-the-art conservation facilities with public and private money. She has served as an Icon Trustee, as President of ECCO and was External Examiner for the University of the Arts London MA Conservation at Camberwell College. She is an ACR, a Fellow of IIC and of the Linnean Society of London, and an active member of Fashion Revolution.

Dr Katy Emck OBE

Founding Director, Fine Cell Work



Dr Katy Emck is Founding Director of Fine Cell Work, the charity that trains British prisoners to do fine commercial needlework. She has worked for the charity for 22 years, helping to develop a national network of volunteers who now work in 24 prisons with 600 prisoners annually, and to establish Fine Cell Work as a brand selling top quality soft furnishings made in prison. She has also taught and performed theatre in US and UK prisons and worked as a literary journalist.

Anni Mäntyniemi

Policy & Communications Manager, Icon



Anni is the Policy and Communications Manager at Icon. She works closely with the Chief Executive to enhance Icon's advocacy capacity and to influence the policies of governments, NGOs and other voluntary and professional bodies. In her role as Project Manager, she oversaw the day-to-day operation of developing the LMI Toolkit. Before joining Icon, Anni worked as a current affairs officer at the US Embassy in London, specializing in Northern European politics. She has four years of curatorial experience, having worked in various

research roles at Historic Royal Palaces. Anni has a BA in Art History from the University of Sussex and an MA in the Principles of Conservation from UCL.

Peter Martindale ACR

Peter Martindale Conservation



After graduating in Fine Art, Peter Martindale ACR undertook a three-year apprenticeship in the conservation of wall paintings at Canterbury Cathedral Wall Paintings Workshop. He then worked for a number of conservators in the private sector on wall paintings, paintings and stone before founding his own company in 2003. Over the years, Peter has played an active part in Icon Stone and Wall Paintings Group, co-organising a number of conferences. He is an Icon Mentor, member of the Science and Heritage sub-committee of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a trained yoga teacher.

Michael Nelles

Head of Membership, Icon



Michael Nelles previously worked for six years in the museum sector in Hampshire. He worked at the Old Maritime Museum in Southampton as a Curatorial Assistant after he finished his first degree in History in Canada. That led to a frontline management role at Winchester Museums, and while there he joined the Committee of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society as Hon Membership Secretary. He is currently studying for a PhD in History.

Stephen O'Reilly

Director, Loud Marketing



Stephen O'Reilly is business consultant working for a range of clients, with particular emphasis on the membership space. He helps clients improve performance through more effective communication and engagement. The process often starts with strategic advice and the delivery of insight and intelligence through market research. Branding and marketing communications campaigns and collateral often follow. Through Loud Marketing, Stephen provides a flexible extension to his clients' resources and often becomes a trusted advisor.

Sarah Peek ACR

Director, Sarah Peek Conservation



Sarah began her career as an Art teacher working with primary age children before moving back to the UK to undertake her Postgraduate Diploma in Ceramic Conservation and Related Materials at West Dean. Shortly after completing her training, Sarah established her own practice, Sarah Peek Conservation in 1996, which has grown and developed enormously over the last 20 years. Sarah became Chair of the Icon Accreditation Committee in 2019, having previously been the representative for Ceramics and related materials, and Vice Chair of the Committee.

Dr Renata Peters

Associate Professor in Conservation, Institute of Archaeology, University College London



Dr Renata F. Peters runs the MA Principles of Conservation at UCL, where she has been working since 2005. She is an object conservator with a background in Fine Art and a keen interest in conservation decision-making, especially in how the interactions between manufacturing techniques, raw materials, uses and values associated with objects affect conservation approaches. Renata has worked with different kinds of collections in South and North America, Europe and Africa. Her research focuses on collections originating from indigenous nations from the Americas, but she also has extensive experience with archaeological conservation. Currently, she is the conservation lead of a cross-disciplinary project in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.

Sandra Smith ACR

Head of Collection Care, British Museum



Sandra Smith is Head of Collection Care at the British Museum. Prior to taking up this post in February 2019, she was Head of Conservation and Technical Services at the V&A, with an overview for the long term care of the V&A collections. Sandra has taken a leading role in the development of the conservation profession as the Co-ordinator of the Ceramics and Glass working group of ICOM-CC, participating in working groups within Icon to develop career opportunities and education strategies in conservation. She was Senior Judge of the Nigel Williams Award, Treasurer of IIC and Icon and is a Trustee of the Gabo Trust and Vice President of IIC. Sandra is an accredited conservator and Fellow of International Institute of Conservation (FIIC) and the Society of Antiquaries (FSA). She was awarded Honorary Fellow by the City and Guilds art School in July 2019.

Justeen Stone

Programmes & Finance Officer, Association of Independent Museums



Justeen is the AIM Programmes and Finance officer with 9 years' experience of managing the AIM Grants and the Pilgrim Conservation Fund. With a background in the History of Design, Decorative Arts and Crafts she has worked within the commercial auction sector and museum sector for nearly 20 years.

Catriona Ward ACR

Ward & Co



Catriona has worked in the heritage field in the UK and Australia for over twenty five years - in both the public and private sectors. Her specialisms are Project Management, Preventive Conservation and Conservation Management. She has managed many individual collections conservation projects, provides training in care of collections and has been a Project Conservator on several large historic building re-servicing projects.

Helen Wass

Head of Heritage, HS2



Helen oversees the entire archaeology and built heritage work for the route between Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and London. Much of Helen's career has been on linear infrastructure. She worked on High Speed One for nine years for Rail Link Engineering managing the delivery of the archaeological site and post excavation works. This proved the perfect hothouse for her current role. At HS2 Helen sets the project's strategy and standards for the historic environment, supported by many consultants, academics and contractors, together with Historic England and local authority specialists. Working in what she calls 'construction archaeology', Helen sees a key part of her roles as communication, explaining the what, why and how of the archaeological works to communities, colleagues and clients alike.