



Newsletter

ICOM-CC Preventive Conservation Working Group

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PRESENTATION

Dear colleagues,

This is the first Newsletter from the triennium 2023-2026 and it is my pleasure to write this lines as the new Working Group Coordinator. First, I would like to thank Anna Bülow from the Stedelijk Museum for her service as previous coordinator of our group. She faced a pandemic among other things and keep the boat navigating over the surface. Also, to thank the past group of Assistant Coordinators: Bart Ankersmit (The Netherlands), Andrea Bernath (Romania), Naoko Sonoda (Japan), Vesna Živkovic (New Zealand), and Suruchika Chawla (India).

One of the things I liked to keep from Anna's view is the idea of being a diverse global organization. Therefore, you may find a team of Assistant Coordinators from four continents, with different backgrounds, professional history and interests. To all of them thank you for accepting and for their will to help our Working Group.

We also want to keep the Knowledge Exchange Sessions and maybe take them to next level as an online activity to connect us, interact, and discuss the current issues in our field considering that our world faces enormous challenges impacting people, collections, and institutions. The practice of preventive conservation, today than ever before, should provide alternatives to deal with these changes in the search for increasingly sustainable solutions to avoid the deterioration of collections and to prepare professionals

and institutions to confront them. The field of conservation cannot disconnect itself from these problems.

Themes of preventive conservation overcome decades ago, such as emergency or risk management plans, are taking on new relevance and a new dimension according to the most recent events: the systematic theft of collections in storage, the floods in different places on the planet or fires, to name just a few, demonstrate the need to reconcile scientific knowledge with the human perspective of our profession.

We invite you the check out for our Triennial Working Plan, based on the discussions expressed during the "Planning Session" held at the last Triennial Conference, and as a result of a brief poll some of you kindly answered.

David Cohen

Universidad de los Andes - Colombia

We invite you to check for the Programme, to follow us through our [website](#) or our [Facebook](#) page!



Natalija Ćosić - Norway



I am a senior preventive conservator with more than ten years of experience in heritage preservation and teaching conservation in various settings. My educational journey began with undergraduate studies in Archaeology at the University of Belgrade, Serbia where I cultivated a passion for integrating research of the past with conservation principles. This led me to pursue a specialized master's program in preventive conservation, further honing my skills in managing the cultural heritage in diverse settings.

I started working at the former Central Institute for Conservation in Belgrade, providing consultancy and advice to professionals and institutions regarding various preventive conservation and heritage management issues. There, as cultural heritage conservation educator, I have also developed numerous courses and workshop pertaining to diverse preventive conservation topics. Also, I act as ICCROM's RE-ORG trainer and have been part of multiple RE-ORG projects in the SEE region, ICCROM's RE-ORG program for Southeast Asia and now in Norway. Before moving from the Balkans, I have participated in developing ICOM Red list of Southeast European cultural objects at risk. In 2021, as preventive conservator I have joined the shared Department for Conservation for museums in Vestland, Norway (Bevaringstenestene, MUHO).

My professional interests span collection management and decision-making, conservation epistemology, ethics, materiality, and the relationship between heritage assets and their contextual environments. I am committed to advancing the importance of preventive conservation, assisting in fostering and sharing sustainable conservation practices and promoting equal access to cultural and natural heritage. As a driven writer, I have been contributing to the field with articles that sit at the crossroads of critical heritage studies and conservation. In my role as Assistant Coordinator, I am hoping to share some of those perspectives as well.



Working Team

Marjolijn Debulpaep - Belgium



Marjolijn Debulpaep has a Master Degree in Art History and is a conservator-restorer of paintings. She's specialized in preventive conservation. In 2001 she started to work at the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) in Brussels, where she created the Preventive Conservation Unit in 2007, which she still heads today. In this role, she leads a team of advisors and scientific staff who work with heritage institutions to ensure sustainable access to their collections. She offers advice and training to heritage professionals and coordinates research projects in preventive conservation, like ARTGARDEN (<https://agato.kikirpa.be/home>). She has a leading

role in developing RE-ORG strategies in Belgium and abroad, to help unlock the potential of museum collections in storage through storage reorganization. Together with ICCROM and CCI she organized the first RE-ORG International Seminar in Brussels (September 2016). They also published on teaching methods for RE-ORG, results of and experiences with RE-ORG regional or national strategies and in 2021 the 'Becoming a RE-ORG Coach' guide was made available online. In 2019-2020 Marjolijn launched and coordinated the international SHARE-ORG Competition to stimulate innovative use of (reorganized) collections in storage.

Ingrid Frederick - Colombia



Ingrid Frederick (M.A. World Heritage Studies, BTU-Cottbus) acts as an advisor in international cooperation and partnerships at the Programa Fortalecimiento de Museos of the National Museum of Colombia, which aims at promoting knowledge exchange and capacity-building initiatives among the network of Colombian museums.

Between 2012-2015 she worked in the arts collections management of the Banco de la República. Between 2014 and 2020, she worked in communications and partnership-building strategies of the non-profit organization Association for Heritage Preservation of the Americas, co-organizing international conferences aiming at promoting the professional development and exchange of cultural

heritage professionals in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, identifying and securing strategic partners for capacity-building, networking and exchange among heritage institutions and professionals. She was a consultant at UNESCO's World Heritage Centre at the Headquarters in Paris in 2018, working in the implementation and monitoring of the 1972 World Heritage convention in a cluster of 5 countries in Western Europe (Germany, UK, Ireland, Spain and Portugal). Ingrid has taught courses for the Heritage Master's at the Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, covering UNESCO Cultural Conventions and the international legal framework for cultural heritage. From 2019 to 2023 Ingrid worked as a curator and director at the Museo de la Universidad del Rosario (Bogotá).



Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie - Nigeria



Ogechukwu Elizabeth Okpalanozie is an Assistant Director (Conservation) at National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria. She adopts both preventive and restorative methods in conserving the collections in the museum which are mostly ethnographic. She has carried out research on different aspects of conservation such as climatic monitoring of storage areas, risk management and pest management in studying sustainable ways of collection care.

Ogechukwu has a Ph. D. in Microbiology from University of Lagos, Nigeria with research focus on biodeterioration and bioconservation of cultural heritage, a part of which was done at University of Milan, Italy. She also has a Master of Arts degree in Heritage and Interpretation from University of Leicester, United Kingdom. She has attended different international and local conferences, training and workshop. Ogechukwu has presented papers at different international conferences and workshops and has published academic works.

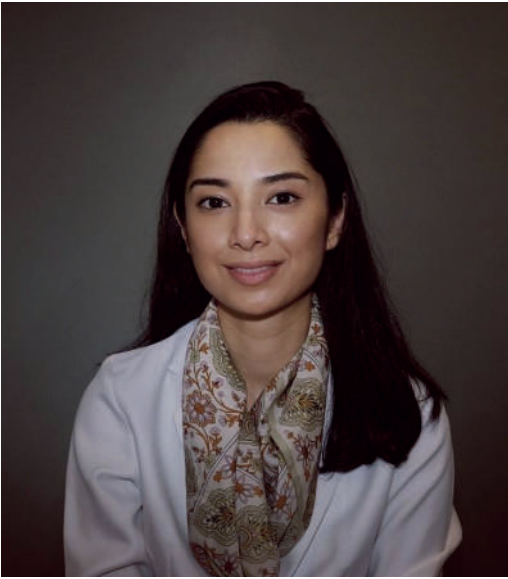
Pilar Salas - Argentina



María del Pilar is an Architect, specialized in preventive conservation. Also, she is a Professor and Researcher at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE). Since 1999, she has overseen the "Document Conservation" chair of the bachelor's degree in Information Sciences (Faculty of Humanities, UNNE). In addition, she is an Adjunct Professor of "History I" (Faculty of Architecture, UNNE). Nowadays, she is a member and directs teams of research and extension, which publishes about the subject. She not only provides courses to libraries, archives, and museum staff but also advises museum during its projects. She has been part of the initial group for the development of ICCROM's RE-ORG Museum Deposit Reorganization Methodology and co-directed its application for the first time at the MACRO

Museum in Rosario, Argentina. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors of ICOM Argentina and has been in charge of coordinating the regional project RE-ORG CONO SUR Workshop, which was organized by ICOM Argentina (ICOM Solidarity Projects subsidy), in the province of Corrientes (Argentina) with the contribution of the provincial government in 2023. She has collaborated with ICCROM on training projects in Cultural Heritage Risk Management. She served as Director in the Heritage Directorate of the Institute of Culture of Corrientes, where she developed work teams to design and implement programs for the conservation and dissemination of heritage and strengthening museums

Margarita Villanueva - The Philippines



Margarita is the Assistant to the Director and Manager of Conservation of the Lopez Museum and Library in Manila, Philippines. She completed a BA Art History and BSc Materials Chemistry from the University of British Columbia in 2009. While studying, she trained in private laboratories for paintings. She later completed an MSc Professional Conservation (science pathway) from Cardiff University as a Chevening Scholar of the UK government.

Margarita has been affiliated with Lopez since 2012, a Filipiniana institution with an important collection of fine art from the 19th

century onwards and rare books, periodicals, and maps from the 16th century to present day, amongst others. As Manager of Conservation, Margarita oversees center operations and conservation policies, projects, and research. Her research interests are in technical studies of Philippine paintings, managing collection environments in tropical climates, and integrating sustainability objectives in operations. Her projects have included integrating sustainability objectives in environmental guidelines, conservation recommendations for the design of a storage facility, and environmental studies on artworks in transit, particularly from tropical to temperate climate zones.

David Cohen - Colombia



David Cohen is currently an assistant professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota. For almost 20 years he has worked in the field of preventive conservation as a consultant in many museums in Colombia, incorporating conservation as part of the decision-making process within museological plans and developing tools for it.

He has collaborated on some international projects with ICCROM focused on risk management and values assessment. He has several publications on these topics.



STORAGE CONDITIONS

According to the global survey of ICCROM (2011)¹, 95% of museum objects are kept in storage. Despite the progress made, museum storage continues to present problems ranging from knowledge of the conditions and its management to the sustainability of these facilities.



EXTREME CLIMATE AND PRESERVATION CHALLENGES

In 2022, there were 176 flood disasters recorded worldwide², and the number of large fires has doubled between 1984 and 2015 just in the US³. Museum disasters caused by extreme weather conditions are increasing despite the lack of scientific data for collection-based institutions. Preparedness and response are key issues to mitigate object damage and require a community-human component approach.



BEYOND GREEN: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For years, the field of preventive conservation has addressed sustainability, focusing on energy consumption and the carbon footprint in museums. However, sustainable development is much broader, making it necessary to connect museums, collections, and people with the sustainable development goals proposed by the United Nations, which remain disconnected from professional practice. Inclusiveness and collections' access will play a key role.

1. https://www.iccom.org/sites/default/files/ICCROM-UNESCO%20International%20Storage%20Survey%202011_en.pdf

2. <https://www.statista.com/topics/11261/floods/>

3. <https://www.c2es.org/content/wildfires-and-climate-change/>