Dear Madame, dear Sir,
A new MA university course is available at the University for Continuing Education, Krems, Austria.

**Interdisciplinary Methods in Graphic Art, Book and Document Conservation**


Please may we kindly ask you to share this information with your students/members.

Dr habil Mag. Patricia Engel
akademische Restauratorin
Donau-Universität Krems - Universität für Weiterbildung
Department für Bauen und Umwelt
Zentrum für Kulturgüterschutz
European Research Centre for Book and Paper Conservation-Restoration
Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30
3500 Krems an der Donau
T +43 (0)2732 893 2580
F +43 (0)2732 893 4650
mobil: +43 (0)6505871877
patricia.engel@donau-uni.ac.at
www.restauratorenohnegrenzen.eu/erc

Unit 1
Philosophy and theories of written/graphic heritage conservation
16th-20th Oct. 2017 (Giorgio Bonsanti)

The conservation theory by Cesare Brandi and the subsequent suggestions by Umberto Baldini build the core and backbone of this unit as well as European understanding of conservation of written heritage as such.

However, it is important to see the development of the theory by Brandi in a historical context and understand previous and recent development against the background of general developments and changes in society because any conservation theory is rooted in the general philosophy of the society. The Unit not only strives to discuss this fact, but also brings to the table means and methods to assist further thinking. Finally, new ideas concerning new aspects of conservation theory should be developed and evaluated in Unit 1.

Unit 2
Ethics of written/graphic heritage conservation
23rd-27th Oct. 2017 (Christine Grond, NN)

The Unit shows how the conservation theory is practically implemented in our everyday life today. Maintaining and passing on the authenticity of source material for research in public archives that keep collections of personal items, some of which being living artists’ archives deposed by writers, composers, architects, filmmakers, etc., is the first central topic of this Unit. Documents from *The Archives of Contemporary Arts - A Collection of Literary Estates* at DUK are taken as a pertinent example. The lecture will be held partly at the archive.

Unit 3 online
International recommendations in the field of written/graphic heritage preservation

11th-15th Dec. 2017 (Peter Strasser)
The striving for pinning down the idea of conservation resulted in a series of recommendations, which themselves reflect the understanding of what is conservation at a given time in history. Students will be offered various legal texts and codes (Athens, Venice, Nara, etc.) relevant to the conservation of cultural heritage, along with comments thereon. There will be a discussion online forum and the lecturer will be available to answer and comment on the text brought forward in the forum. The aim is to offer the students an opportunity to discuss various interpretations of international recommendations and reach benefits for the own work from that kind of discussion. This Unit partly prepares the discussion in Unit 7, which is half a year later. The time in between is available for better understanding of the legal material.

Unit 4

Environment aspects (monasteries, private collections, state libraries)

15th-19th January 2018 (Patricia Engel, NN)

As seen in Unit 3, the environment plays an important role in defining what conservation is, however, apart from the cultural environment, there is also physical and geographical environment. The term “Environment” is used as a headline for this Unit. An excursion to the “Klimahaus Bremerhaven, Germany” http://www.klimahaus-bremerhaven.de/en/discover/the-journey/overview.html to Bremerhaven will give the students an immediate, “bodily” impression of various climatic environments. Impressions about sociocultural environments will be gained by comparing European understanding of the conservation of heritage with the Chinese and Japanese approach. The Unit ends with information and hands-on materials of how to measure the climate in various given environment setups and what parameters can influence climate changes in particular.

Second semester

Unit 5 online
First-response measures in cases of catastrophes affecting written/graphic heritage
22nd-26th January 2018 (ZKGS DUK)

While the first semester dealt with philosophical issues, the key theme of the second semester is the first response action. In Unit 5 relevant information on first-response measures in cases of catastrophes affecting written/graphic heritage is provided online. There will be a forum for discussion and the lecturer will be available to answer and comment on the questions and comments brought forward by participants via an online forum. The aim is to discuss fire prevention in archives, libraries and other collections, making first response plans and mitigating disasters, if any.

Unit 6

Water response measures in cases of catastrophes affecting written/graphic heritage
16th-20th April 2018 (Katja Sterflinger, NN, Gunthard Gutmann, Patricia Engel)

While archivists, librarians and conservators have to leave the fighting to others in the case of fire, the care for wet heritage items remains their responsibility. This is the reason why the fire Unit is an online unit but the water Unit is a hands-on unit.

It will cover the planning and handling of wet books, both in theory and practice, and in particular focus on mould. This is particularly important in case the flooding resulted from heavy rains or broken tubes. A general introduction to fungal biodeterioration of paper material will be given followed by the most important facts on fungal ecology related to humidity in archives, libraries and storage rooms. Treatments and measures in order to detect, to prevent and to handle fungal contaminations on materials will be presented.
National first response units – changing examples: The unit will describe how the Austrian army acts in case of a disaster – in particular how this is done with respect to written heritage.

An important element in any disaster mitigation action is to lead the people involved. This unit will also take care of this topic.

While in the case of unit 5 first response to fire was dealt with theoretically, this unit includes a practical session on planning first response plans. The participants will go to a castle, an archive, a library, etc. and conduct a survey in order to be able to make a first response plan for the specific collection.

Unit 7
Written/graphic heritage and the law
18th-22nd Juni 2018 (Jakob Widner, Peter Strasser, NN, Nikolas Sarris)
Legal regulations play an important role both in heritage preservation and in implementing new research results in the conservation work flow.
Jakob Widner will lecture on the applicable law at the intersection of contracts, scientific research and the export of cultural property & heritage.
Peter Strasser will lecture on heritage law and what must be especially considered in safeguarding of written heritage.
Patent law relevant for the developing of new conservation methods, its restrictions and possibilities is dealt with by NN.

Nikolas Sarris will lecture about real cases in conservation of written heritage as a free lance conservator, both in Greece, which is his home country, and abroad, including his work for UNESCO and Conservalors Without Frontiers. After the presentations the students will be given an opportunity to discuss various aspects of freelance conservation work conducted world wide.

Unit 8
Types of damage and preservation solutions of written/graphic heritage
2nd-6th July 2018 (Patricia Engel, Robert Sablatnig, Manfred Schreiner, Katja Sterflinger)
The first part of the Unit will deal with organoleptic methods for understanding the state of a work of art. This is a method of paramount importance in terms of the conservator’s ability to quickly estimate the condition of collections (Patricia Engel).

The Unit will then demonstrate (theoretically and in a hands-on fashion) how to:
- image (partly) unreadable manuscripts using multi-spectral imaging techniques
- analyze multi-spectral images in order to enhance text readability
- analyze the layout of manuscript pages
- recognize lines, words, and characters of manuscript pages
- perform Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) and CrieBecognition for manuscripts in order to understand state-of-the-art methods of Computer Vision applied to Digital Humanities (Robert Sablatnig).

The next part of the Unit will cover the instrumental material analysis and the results it can provide to better understand an artwork at hand. It also will explain what questions cannot be answered with these methods and what combination may lead to meaningful results. Mainly non-destructive analytical techniques will be discussed and their applicability to art objects in a non-invasive way is presented. These methods are based on energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence analysis as well as infrared and Raman spectroscopy. (Manfred Schreiner)

Methods for analysis of biogenic (fungi, bacteria) contamination will be presented: this includes both the sampling on the materials (theory and practice) and the microbiological and molecular analysis of the samples (theoretical
State of the art molecular methods for sample analysis will be presented (DNA extraction, PCR and DNA sequencing) and the pros and cons of classical molecular methods versus newest molecular analysis will be discussed.

Finally, the biological analysis (DNA) will follow (Katja Sterflinger), and finally all this information is brought together by showing how they can be used for building a conservation concept. (Patricia Engel) This last part will be demonstrated on real cases. However, understanding the work of written heritage from the linguist’s and historian’s perspective must also be considered. How this is done will be demonstrated in the next Unit.

Third semester

Unit 9 inverted classroom

Latest research in the field of book conservation

1st-5th Oct 2018 (Heinz Miklas, Claudia Römer, Jedert Vodopivec)

Two ongoing research projects are selected, their origin is described and it is shown what could be reached so far. In 2018 one case will be the ongoing project The Origin of the Glagolitic-Old Church Slavonic Manuscripts - An Interdisciplinary Investigation Accompanied by Editions (Heinz Miklas). The second case in 2018 will be on Ottoman manuscripts. (Claudia Römer) Additionally to the point of view of linguists, the book as entity will also be dealt with. (Jedert Vodopivec)

Unit 10 inverted classroom

Latest research in the field of paper conservation

3rd-7th December 2018 (Volker Ribitsch, NN, Karin Scheper)

While Unit 9 focused on projects in the field of written heritage, Unit 10 focuses on latest research in written heritage conservation. In 2018 this Unit introduces two ongoing or just finished research projects. Specifically, in 2018 the Unit will deal with mass deacidification and ink corrosion and the comprehensive research on Islamic manuscripts, their material, technique and the terminology associated with these methods and techniques.

Unit 11

Research strategies for safeguarding written/graphic heritage

14th-18th January 2019 (NN)

After having seen some ongoing projects, the next Unit, which is Unit number 11, deals with the strategy behind these research activities, which is a strategy for the well-being of our written and graphic heritage. Apart from the research introduced in the framework of the university course all research done in the field is now brought “on the table.”

On the other hand, topical questions in research in written heritage protection are brought together. On the basis of this information new research ideas are formulated and the funding landscape is analyzed for possible calls for projects for the first time. In Unit 14 these first attempts will then be brought down to specific bids. For the time
being, only an impression of the landscape of calls for projects should be provided in order to enable a conclusion on the usability of the calls. In case there is some substantial shortcoming in a call, it is shown how the community of archivists, librarians, conservators, etc., can influence the policy of money distribution and the focus of governments on supporting research in the field.

Unit 12

Related fields

4th-8th February 2019 (Christine Glassner, NN)

Before coming to writing project applications, two more related Units on material are offered. Unit 12 deals with fields related to conservation. These may be material or immaterial. For 2019 the focus of the Unit is the topic terminology. Another topic will be Medieval manuscripts in Austria online: benefits, strategies and challenges.

Unit 13

Related material groups

11th-15th February 2019 (Lucretia Miu, NN)

Various methods of manufacturing leather and parchment will be presented and discussed. During the practical sessions participants will receive samples of leather and parchment in order to identify the animal skin and conduct damage assessment according to latest research results.

4th semester

Unit 14

11th-15th March 2019 (Thomas Aigner, Patricia Engel)

Fundraising for written/graphic heritage

The forth semester deals specifically with the question of how to further develop the field of heritage conservation as an international interdisciplinary endeavour and the design of new methods in common comprehensive way to the further development of the field itself.

Unit 14 continues the work of Unit 11 and builds on the work done in the self-study mode for Unit 11. By that time, the calls with have been analyzed and useful calls detected for the already identified research needs. It involves establishing the project management methods, preparing the Gantt charts, establishing of the consortium and writing of applications. The unit is a practical case study which can serve as a role model for an initial stage of writing any bid for funding. Furthermore the Unit brings forward means and methods for dissemination of project results, which is an important element in any project planning.

Unit 15

Economics of safeguarding written/graphic heritage
Research results should not only be disseminated, but also used on the market. Management/Marketing is communication. The unit will focus on the importance and diversity of communication in all aspects of conservation of written cultural heritage and art on paper.

Representatives of industry supporting the conservation of written heritage in one or the other way will be invited as discussion partners. It seems meaningful to communicate face to face and learn to understand each other’s point of view.

Unit 16

Interdisciplinary exchange – future project

20th-24th May 2019 (NN)

Unit 16 takes up what was started in Unit 15. Now the communication is continued with representatives of the society at large (politicians, heads of collections, authors) and the general public.

The representatives will be chosen shortly before the unit starts. Public discussion will be done in various setup and with different groups.

Unit 17

Research in the field
1st-5th July 2019 (NN)

The unit will finalize the effort to advance the field of Graphic Art and Book and Document conservation. Topics resulting from and arising during the 16 previous Units will be dealt with in effective way.

Unit 18

Reading Group

8th-12th Juli 2019 (NN)

In July 2019 doctorate students in fields related to Graphic Arts, Document and Book Conservation from all over Europe are invited to present and discuss their work with each other and a board of internationally recognized experts in the fields of the works presented that will be selected for such discussion. The students of the ULG will be the audience of the presentations and will be actively involved in the discussions. The discussion will not only deal with the ongoing research in the field of conservation of graphic and written heritage, but will also serve as good preparation for the MA thesis of the students. The university course will be finalized with an excursion, the location of which will be selected according to its relevance to the course shortly before it takes place.