

Virtual Conference

Plastics in Peril: Focus on Conservation of Polymeric Materials in Cultural Heritage

16-19 November, 2020

Meeting Timezone GMT (UK)

9:00- 17:00

10:00-18:00 (Germany/ Netherlands/ Italy/ Belgium,
Sweden/ France/ Switzerland)

09:00-17:00 (Portugal)

01:00-9:00 (LA, California, US)

04:00-11:00 (New York/ Washington DC, US)

04:00-11:00 (Gatineau/ Kingston, Canada)

18:00-02:00 (Melbourne, Australia)

DAY 1 Mo. 16.11.2020

8:40-9:05 Welcome

Keynote 1

09:05-09:45 "Maximising information obtained from surveying polymers in museum collections: The importance of iterative terminology development and data curation"

Petronella Nel (Australia)

Session 1 "What am I?" — Identification of plastics

09:45-10:05 "Plastification: the plastic identification tool and workshop that helps to identify plastics in your collection" Carien van Aubel, Olivia van Rooijen, Suzan de Groot, Henk van Keulen and Lydia Beerkens (Netherlands)

10:05-10:25 "Save the plastics! Identification and condition survey in Belgian museums" Hannah Hendrickx, Eline van der Velde, Griet Kockelkoren and Wim Fremout (Belgium)

10:25-10:45 "The quest for an affordable identification tool for plastics in museums" Sophie Rowe (UK)

10:45-11:00 Session discussion

11:00-12:00 Chat session

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Session 2 "A goal without a plan is just a wish"— Collection management

13:00-13:20 "Beg, borrow and steal: developing preservation strategies for plastics in large multidisciplinary collections" Alice Cannon, Rosemary Goodall, Elizabeth McCartney and Karina Palmer (Australia)

13:20-13:40 "Understanding plastics in our collection: a survey at the Harvard Art Museums" Georgina Rayner, Susan D. Costello, Angela Chang, and Elizabeth La Duc (USA)

13:40-14:00 "A tale of two national collections, Canada" Sue Warren (Canada)

14:00-14:20 "The problem of numbers — plastics in Natural History Collections: a case study" Peter Giere (Germany)

14:20-14:40 Session discussion

14:40-15:40 Chat session

DAY 2 Tu. 17.11.2020

Session 3 “Today’s and tomorrow’s sorrows” - Storage and global warming

09:45-10:05 “Plastic in the Pacific” Valerie Tomlinson and Ruby Satele” (New Zealand)

10:05-10:25 “How to deal with a self-destructive plastic in museum collections? Storing cellulose nitrate 3D objects at the Deutsches Museum” Christina Elsässer, Marisa Pamplona, Teresa Donner, Anna Micheluz and Susanne Grießbach (Germany)

10:25-10:45 "Cellulose nitrate badges: are they at risk of fading and is it safe to store them in a freezer?" Marei Hacke and Capucine Korenberg (Sweden and UK)

10:45-11:00 Session discussion

11:00-12:00 Chat session

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Keynote 2

13:00-13:40 “Collective Care: Notes from Now” Jill Sterrett (US)

Session 4 “From pop to blob” — Science driven decisions in plastics conservation

13:40-14:00 “Helping “Hinz” and “Kunz”? Analysing and conserving two robotic prototypes from the Deutsches Museum in Munich” Julia Sawitzki, Marisa Pamplona and Frank Dittmann (Switzerland)

14:00-14:20 “Investigating paint materials in street art mural paintings through spectroscopic and mass spectrometric approaches” Jacopo La Nasa, Beatrice Campanella, Francesca Sabatini, Antonio Rava, Will Shank, Paola Lucero-Gomez, Daphne De Luca, Stefano Legnaioli, Vincenzo Palleschi, Maria Perla Colombini, Ilaria Degano, Francesca Modugno (Italy)

14:20-14:40 “Challenges and chances in surveying plastic objects in an industrial heritage collection” Till Krieg, Cristian Mazzon and Elena Gómez-Sánchez (Germany)

14:40-14:55 Session discussion

14:55-16:00 Chat session/coffee break

DAY 2 Tu. 17.11.2020

Panel discussion

16:00-17:00 **“A blessing and a curse” - plastic collections in the modern world**

Moderator: Katherine Curran (UK)

Joy Mazurek (US), Mary Coughlin (US) Tim Bechthold (Germany), Stefan Simon (Germany)

DAY 3 We. 18.11.2020

Session 5a “Pop, blob and back again” — Treatment techniques

09:45-10:05 “Should we clean plastics like we clean paintings? A study in cleaning plasticised poly (vinyl chloride)” John Morrison and Petronella Nel (Australia)

10:05-10:25 “Approaching the preservation of polyurethane soles on football boots” Gabrielle Flexer and Kayleigh Spring (UK)

10:25-10:45 “Pemulen™ and poly (vinyl alcohol)-based treatments: Discussing cleaning applications on poly (methyl methacrylate) museum objects” Stefani Kavda (Germany)

10:45-11:00 Session discussion

11:00-12:00 Chat session

12:00-15:00 Lunch & break

Session 5b “Pop, blob and back again” — Treatment techniques (continued)

15:00-15:20 “The plastic bag as art: three case studies on the treatment of clear, flexible plastic sheeting in contemporary art” Joy Bloser (US)

15:40-16:00 “Conserving Line Vautrin’s Talosel resin objects” Loredana Mannina and Gabrielle Crowther (US/UK)

16:00-16:20 “Preserving and recovering the original: Developing conservation treatments for damaged plastic artifacts” Anna Lagana´ (US)

16:20-16:35 Session discussion

16:35-17:35 Chat session

DAY 4 Th. 19.11.2020

Session 6 “Fit for the future”— Treatment options over time

12:30-12:50 “The case of the vanishing Gabos: the Gabo Collection at Tate” Gates Sofer, Deborah Cane and Joyce H. Townsend (UK)

12:50-13:10 “Sustainable strategies using supercritical carbon dioxide for the conservation of plastics: insight from the PlasCO₂ project” Angelica Bartoletti and Joana Lia Ferreira (Portugal)

13:10-13:30 “The dynamic composition: learning from the CH 1 38 Rho Space Modulator” Megan Creamer (Canada)

13:30-13:45 Session discussion

13:45-15:00 Lunch & chat session

Keynote 3

15:00-15:40 “Working side-by-side: The necessarily close collaboration between conservation scientist(s) and conservator(s) at restoration treatments” Thea van Oosten (The Netherlands)

Session 7 “A good atmosphere” - Packaging and micro-pollutants

15:40-16:00 "Decision making in conservation based on modelling and measuring diethyl phthalate plasticiser loss from cellulose acetate in varied ventilation conditions" Argyro Gili, Rose King, Luca Mazzei, Simón Da Ros, Josep Grau-Bové, Robert Koestler, Michael Petr, Odile Madden and Katherine Curran (UK)

16:20-16:40 "A smart future for cellulose derivatives conservation" Artur Neves (Portugal)

16:40-17:00 “Ozone test strips for PVC plastics?” Mary Coughlin (US)

17:00-17:15 Session discussion

17:15-17:30 Closing remarks