

P10. Let's Really Talk about Decision-making in Cultural Heritage Conservation

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Decision-making in conservation is a complex process that can involve not only conservators, but also historians, curators, artists, scientists, institutions, and communities. This process is paramount to establishing preservation and conservation actions and policies that will define cultural heritage objects' future. Decision-making considers the objects' materiality, decay, values, societal impact, and communication, among other dimensions, and may be aided by decision-making models or tools. The subjectivity involved in this process is inevitable, as the attribution of values can change according to subjects and their different contexts (cultural, economic, historical, social, and political). Therefore, decision-making is not a straightforward process. It requires assessing and managing tangible and intangible dimensions and demands interdisciplinary teams to discuss the multiple values embodied and attributed to an object. Although decision-making is often a critical and controversial process, especially when involving curative conservation treatments, generally it is not clearly communicated among stakeholders and the community. Such communication ought to include the discussion of losses as an honest and clear recognition of the conservator's professional responsibility, acting as a mediator of this decision process.

In this panel we welcome contributions that aim to share complex decision-making processes in conservation praxis, highlighting the in-depth discussion and recognition of gains and losses that were considered for conservation treatments, display, storage, technical investigations, ethical questions, and other subjects related to the safeguarding of cultural heritage. Our aim is to foster an enriching discussion around this subject, contributing to the evolution of a sustainable conservation practice.

Keywords: Conservation; Restoration; Decision-making

Thematic lines: Heritage Practices; Heritage Management; Conservation, Restoration and Sustainability.

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Short bio: Sílvia Sequeira is a paper conservator, Ph.D. in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, from Universidade NOVA de Lisboa. Her professional activity has been dedicated to teaching (she is currently an invited Assistant Professor at the Department of Conservation and Restoration at NOVA) researching (she is currently a researcher at LAQV-REQUIMTE) and conservation and restoration practice (founder and partner of NEON Art Conservation Lda.). She is also co-director and editor-in-chief of the diamond open-access SCI journal *Conservar Património*. Her research has been mainly focused on the development of sustainable practical solutions for the preservation and conservation of graphic documents. The scientific track record of Dr. Sequeira so far comprises 33 scientific publications, including 24 articles in SCI journals, 2 articles in non-SCI journals, 5 book chapters, and 2 articles in conference proceedings, besides the edition of 10 journal issues.

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