

INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS
THEORIES
HISTORY
CONSERVATION

18 to 21
SEPTEMBER
2018

CNCPC - ENCRYM

SAHAGÚN AUDITORIUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
MEXICO CITY

MEMORY
AUTHENTICITY
phenomenology
social connections

COORDINACIÓN NACIONAL
DE CONSERVACIÓN
DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL



The Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, through the Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural (CNCPC) and the Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía "Manuel del Castillo Negrete", call for submissions for the

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THEORIES AND HISTORY OF CONSERVATION

Dates: 18 to 21 September 2018

Venue: Sahagún Auditorium, National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City

Date limit for the submission of abstracts: 31 March 2018

This call for papers is aimed at conservators, restorers, and other professionals interested in the historical and theoretical issues of cultural heritage conservation. The congress will be divided into four thematic sessions. Each session will include two keynote speakers -who will open the debate- and the presentation of several papers.

Themes

1. MEMORY, IDENTITY, AND BELONGING: LOSS, PERMANENCE, AND RESILIENCE RELATED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Subjective identity is a condition for memory, and memory is, in turn, a condition for collective cohesion: all these phenomena are interwoven in a complex way in the shaping, appropriation, and preservation of cultural heritage within a given socio-cultural framework. If that which gives us a sense of belonging is lost, the resulting wounds and fragments need to be dealt with from multiple perspectives; hence, the impacts on cultural heritage require theoretical, methodological, and practical attention by diverse fields of knowledge, including conservation and restoration. By opening a space to discuss the relevance of the notions of memory, belonging, and identity as spaces for socio-cultural creation and recreation, this congress seeks to address diverse concepts, approaches, problems, and proposals related to the loss, permanence, and resilience linked to cultural heritage, particularly (yet not exclusively) in the face of natural and anthropogenic disasters, both in Mexico and worldwide.

2. GIULIO CARLO ARGAN, CESARE BRANDI. THEIR FOUNDATIONS, IMPACT AND RELEVANCE

Based on the philosophical ideas of phenomenology and hermeneutics, the theoretical proposals by Giulio Carlo Argan and Cesare Brandi, which were further explained and developed by Paul Philippot and were initially applied at the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro (ICR), deeply marked the Italian school of restoration. Their influence was then extended to other parts of the world, initially through UNESCO projects and then by ICCROM, helping develop the conservation practice in various countries for more than half a century. Mexico was undoubtedly one of those spaces where these ideas were spread out.

However, over the last few decades, some authors have shown the limits of these theoretical proposals, and have expressed their disagreement, in particular with Cesare Brandi's ideas, branding them as the classical (or traditional) theory; their main aim being to establish an epistemic and conceptual distance with those proposals. Several of those authors have also expressed the need to overcome this theory, and

to generate new proposals, which would help in solving the problems raised by new types of heritage. The congress will aim at analysing the pertinence of those theoretical principles and to explore its scope in front of new types of heritage in order to contrast and evaluate the critiques that have been expressed, as well as to explore new perspectives.

3. LIVING HERITAGE, AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

One of the main changes in conservation over the last twenty-five years has been the modification of its objectives as a discipline: from a profession that viewed itself as a specialised technical service destined to preserve the fabric of cultural heritage, it became a mechanism for the creation and recreation of culture. This change mainly obeyed to social and economic movements at a global scale, which placed the emphasis on the importance of defining the various meanings cultural heritage may have for the persons who use it. This latter concept has been redefined, in turn, as a changing social construct.

The broadening in the scope of conservation as part of a system of constant change in the significance of cultural heritage has produced, undoubtedly, many new challenges for its professional community. Hence, in order to be able to propose better approaches conservation is now using, in addition to its classical analytical tools for the study of local phenomena, others coming from different fields, including social, economic, ethnographic, political, technical and environmental tools.

4. THEORETICAL APPROACHES AND TRENDS, AND NEW HERITAGE CATEGORIES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Defining heritage always leads to a vast number of variables, due to the multiplicity of meanings, signs and significance it may have, which can be modified in each space and over time; it is therefore a complex, living and mutating system. It is an ensemble of expressions with social links and traces from the past, which coexist with a global present, in an exhausting movement.

Understanding and interpreting heritage obliges conservators to undertake transdisciplinary approaches, with sustainable views, aiming at ensuring equilibrium between the environment, society, heritage, as well as associated cultural expressions and daily life in urban environments. In this sense, housing, urban development and environmental policies all pose challenges to conservation professionals. These require specific approaches, involving practical and economic actions, education, identity, memory, testimonies and documents.

Duration, structure and activities

The congress will include presentation of papers and poster sessions.

Each of the themes will initiate with keynote speakers, who will discuss and introduce the theme proposed for each session. The sessions will then continue to the presentations of papers, followed by a closing session.

The official languages will be Spanish, English and French.

Call for papers and posters

1. SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

The submission for abstract proposals will need to be made before 31 March 2018, and sent to the following email address: **theorycongressmx@gmail.com**.

The proposals will have to include:

- Title
- Abstract of 500 to 800 words
- The theme for which the abstract is submitted
- Name of the author or authors (indicating the contact author and an email address), and the institutions of the authors.

2. EVALUATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACTS

The abstract proposals will be analysed and selected by a Scientific Committee. Answers will be sent to authors by 13 April 2018.

3. PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF PAPERS

Once abstracts are accepted, the authors will prepare and send the full text of their paper. These will have a maximum of 2000 words, in addition to the references. Once abstracts are accepted, authors will be sent the editorial policy.

The time for each presentation during the congress will be of 20 minutes.

The date limit to submit papers will be 15 June 2018. They will have to be sent to the following email address: **theorycongressmx@gmail.com**. The full texts which are submitted will be peer-reviewed and considered for their publications on the preprints of the Congress. The Scientific Committee will send an answer to authors by 30 June 2018.

Inscription to the Congress

INSCRIPTION:

There will be a limited number of participants. Pre-registration can be made by sending an email to the following address: **actualizacion.cncpc@inah.gob.mx**.

Participants who pre-register before 31 August 2018 will have a 50% discount.

COSTS:

Pre-registration (until 31 August 2018): 400\$ Mexican Pesos

Registration (After 31 August 2018): 800\$ Mexican Pesos

LANGUAGES:

The languages for the sessions will be Spanish, English and French.