

### **Responsibility & Sustainability – Verantwortung & Nachhaltigkeit**

Volume 38 is dedicated to investigating the role and understanding of social, ecological and cultural responsibility within the field of conservation. Sustainability is the central topic in our call for papers.

Sustainability is more than a mere catchword of our time. Following a common concept, it is based on the three pillars of ecological, economical and social aspects. The German Commission for UNESCO has recently stressed the importance of a further, the cultural, dimension, acting as initiator and driving force for innovation within this triad.

The concept of sustainability is rooted deeply within the field of conservation. It is reflected in one of its most basic ideas – long-term preservation. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of a more environmentally friendly practice in conservation, museums and monument preservation. Safeguarding and caring for artistic and cultural heritage and preserving memories involves a great social responsibility. It is a responsibility that requires an appreciation of the past and sustainable management strategies for the present and future. Prerequisite should be a sensitive treatment of our environment, considering our cultural milieu an integral part of our surroundings. Ever-changing values within a society are subconsciously influencing decision-making processes and actions in cultural heritage preservation. Sustainable approaches demand a more economical practice, using limited resources. In the next volume of the *Restauratorenblätter – Papers in Conservation*, we would like to uncover and present such complexities and relationships, focusing on the following aspects:

**Ecological Responsibility** – How can our practices and use of materials become more ecological? How can museums and the field of monument preservation prepare to face the imminent climate crisis and growing challenges involved? What are the new (sustainability-related) values of today?

**Social Responsibility** – How can conservation-restoration and associated disciplines contribute towards a sustainable society with a high quality of living? How can we raise awareness for our work and better represent the interests of a broader audience? Is our engagement in political affairs adequate? Which impact do social aspects have on preservation strategies? What are the current social standards in the everyday working life of restorers?

**Cultural Responsibility** – How do we proceed when dealing with objects from different ethnic and/or religious contexts in conservation practice? How are we facing challenges in handling sacral, culturally sensitive or historically burdened objects? What are our responsibilities across and beyond national borders?

We welcome all kinds of contributions inspired by or connected to this topic – especially those with strong practical relevance, concrete examples of initiatives or projects in conservation, heritage preservation, the arts, cultural studies or natural sciences as well as interdisciplinary cooperations. What role do social responsibility and sustainability play within ongoing or concluded projects? How can anyone contribute towards embedding these values in future developments? What has been achieved to date?

We kindly invite authors to submit abstracts containing their work's starting point, problem, essential content, methods and (expected) results, in German or English (200-300 words). Please email your submissions to [redaktion@iic-austria.org](mailto:redaktion@iic-austria.org) until December 13, 2020.