

Programme Brill-Nuncius Seminar: The Making of Conservation Science

29 & 30 April 2021

Organizers:

Sven Dupré (Utrecht University/University of Amsterdam)

Esther van Duijn (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam)

This seminar focuses on the disciplinary formation of conservation science in the post-World War II period. While the first half of the twentieth century witnessed the modest beginnings of a science-based conservation practice, the first museum laboratories, and the introduction of new technologies for the investigation and conservation of art (such as X-radiography and UV imagery), the second half of the twentieth century saw the consolidation of the developments that started before WWII with the establishment of international organizations (e.g. ICOM-CC), journals (e.g. *Studies in Conservation*, *National Gallery Technical Bulletin*), and institutes (e.g. the KIK-IRPA) in which the place of conservation science was negotiated. The seminar considers the post-World War II - period up to the 1970s when some conservation theorists, confronted with the processual and intangible aspects of contemporary art, questioned the dominance and principles of science-based conservation. The focus of the seminar is on diverse actors, including scientists and science policy-makers, collectors and conservators, museum professionals and administrators, and the institutional contexts in which these actors operated (e.g. museums, universities, laboratories, conservation studios).

Day 1: Thursday 29 April

Moderator: Sven Dupré (Utrecht University/ University of Amsterdam)

15.00-15.30: Keynote lecture by Geert Vanpaemel (University of Leuven): *From Rome to Brussels. Science and art in the care of paintings.*

15.30-15.35: Commentator: Esther van Duijn (Rijksmuseum)

15.35-15.45: Questions from the audience

15.45-16.00: short break

Moderator: Robert van Langh (Rijksmuseum)

16.00-16.20: Lecture by Jo Kirby (formerly National Gallery, London): *Science and Conservation at the National Gallery, London: the 1950s to the 1970s.*

16.20-16.25: Commentator: Katrien Keune (Rijksmuseum/ University of Amsterdam)

16.25-16.35: Questions from the audience

16.35-16.55: Lecture by Camille Bourdiel (Centre d'histoire sociale des mondes contemporains (CHS), Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): *The Laboratory of the Louvre museum after World War II: the movement towards universality, 1946-1968.*

16.55-17.00: Commentator: René de la Rie (University of Amsterdam)

17.00-17.10: Questions from the audience

17.10-17.20: Brill Digital Book Exhibit

Day 2: Friday 30 April

Moderator: Maartje Stols-Witlox (University of Amsterdam)

15.00-15.20: Lecture by Michael von der Goltz (University of Hildesheim): *Conservation in the early Federal Republic of Germany - A difficult way to interdisciplinarity.*

15.20-15.25: Commentator: Ernst Homburg (University of Maastricht)

15.25-15.35: Questions from the audience

15.35-15.55: Lecture by Andrea Luciani (Luleå University of Technology): *"The ideal of the ideal environment": The influence of climate control on the emergence of preventive conservation theories.*

15.55-16.00: Commentator: Bart Ankersmit (Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency, RCE)

16.00-16.10: Questions from the audience

16.10-16.30: short break

Moderator: Esther van Duijn (Rijksmuseum)

16.30-16.50: Lecture: Ron Spronk (Radboud University, Nijmegen / Queen's University, Kingston): *Infrared reflectography.*

16.50-16.55: Commentator: Michiel Franken (RKD - Netherlands Institute for Art History)

16.55-17.05: Questions from the audience

17.05-17.25: Lecture by Salvador Muñoz-Viñas (University of Valencia): *The role of science in the conservation world: a naïve exploration.*

17.25-17.30: Commentator: Hanna Hölling (University College London)

17.30-17.40: Questions from the audience