

ICOM-CC Conference
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My name is Jacek Olender. I am a PhD student in conservation at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. I also work as teaching assistant there. My PhD research, supervised by Dr. Christina Young (ex-Courtauld, now University of Glasgow), Prof. Katie Scott (Courtauld), and Dr. Ambrose Taylor (Imperial College London) is focused on introducing new types of adhesives into conservation practice. Research is aimed at bringing in new materials that cause less harm to the objects and are easily reversible. The research makes use mostly of materials science laboratory methods but is certainly not closed for the input coming from conservation professionals.



4th-8th September 2017 I attended ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, where, apart from regular taking part in conference activities, I was able to present my talk (co-authored with Christina Young and Ambrose Taylor): 'Applicability of Gecko-Inspired Dry Adhesives to Conservation of Contemporary Materials'. The talk was scheduled for 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 7th September. The talk stemmed directly from my PhD research and I was able to present some of my most recent results. I was talking about the materials engineering research, but also on what the results meant for the perspectives of using them in everyday conservation studio practice. It was an invaluable opportunity to have my research discussed between conservation scientists but also with some of the most experienced practising professionals in the field, who come from all over the world.

This was possible due to the fact that ICOM-CC Triennial Conference is one of the biggest conservation-themed conferences in the world. It brings together studio professionals, institutional conservators and administrators, conservation scientists, as well as people responsible for conservation policies. With over a 1000 delegates from over 60 countries, it offers a huge and diverse platform to discuss research, practices and policies of the conservation world. Therefore, I was able to make contact with numerous professionals that can help me in developing my research further. On the other hand, I believe that the results of my research will be able to develop new conservation methods that these professionals will benefit from. Additionally, the wide range of topics discussed at the conference was invaluable to put my research in the widest of possible contexts and helped me to rethink some of the long-term goals of my research.

I would like to point out that I'm extremely grateful to ICOM-UK for granting me the bursary, without which my attendance to this conference would be most probably impossible, or at least very limited.