



Consequences and Perspectives of Brazilian Conservation Associations in the Context of COVID-19

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This abstract intends to reflect on the possible consequences of the new forms of contact accelerated by the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the reduction of borders and managed to bring peers more closely together. In this regard, we will address the role of professional associations in Brazil, which have a fundamental and active role in representing workers in the conservation field and establishing a professional identity as a group.

Keywords: Associations, professional identity, conservation, Brazil, network

In the 1980s, a few years after the graduation of the first *Lato Sensu* graduate school class in Minas Gerais, the Brazilian Association of Conservators (Abracor) was created in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Its activities ranged from the representation of professionals in different bodies, entities and councils to the organization of congresses and various events taking place between 1988 and 2009.

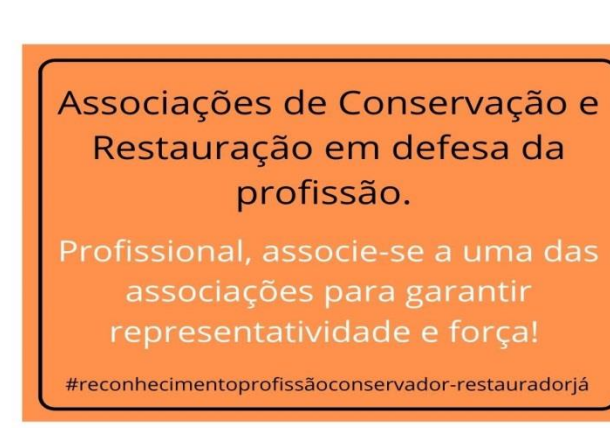
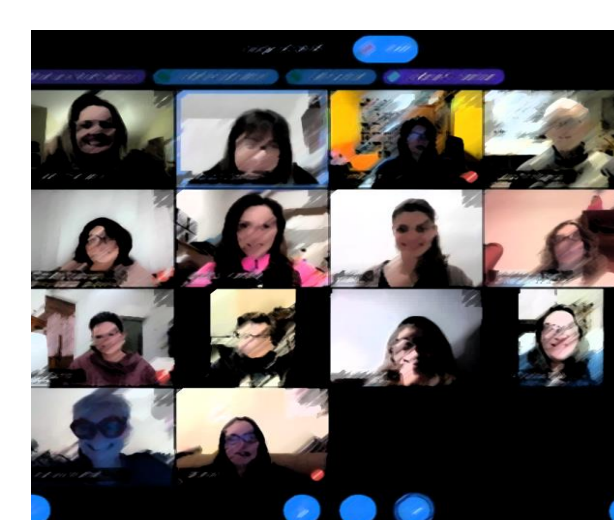
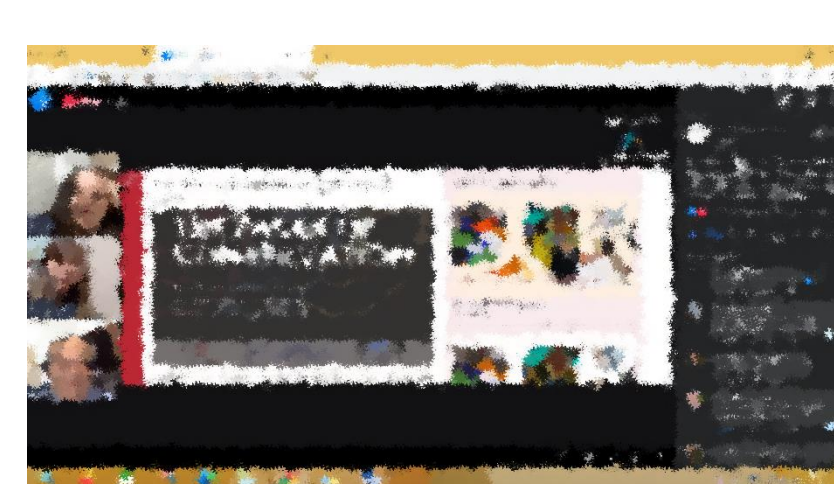
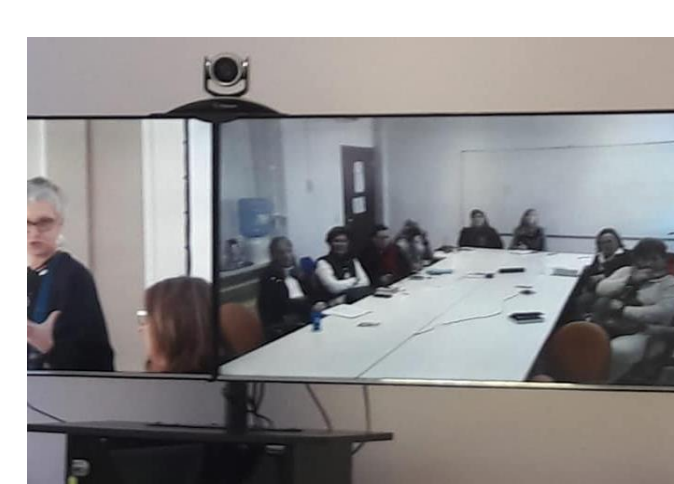


Unfortunately, this association is currently experiencing serious problems; its continuity is threatened by huge debts and management errors.

In an attempt to suppress such a lack of national representation, it was possible to see an ever-growing rapprochement between the regional associations of conservators.



Since 2017, with the I Meeting of Associations in the South Region, the development of unified projects started coming to life, with the aim of mitigating gaps in specific training and social exchanges in the area.



My special thanks to the institutions and people who believed in my work, thus enabling me to be here:



One of the results of those partnerships was the publication of the Portuguese version of Barbara Appelbaum's book, *Conservation Treatment Methodology*, in a co-edition carried out by the efforts of FW, ACOR, ACCR and ARCO.it.



There are currently seven associations in Brazil which represent and strive to protect the profession of Heritage Conservators: the Brazilian Association of Conservators and Restorers (Abracor), the Santa Catarina Association of Conservators of Cultural Heritage (ACCR), the Brazilian Association of Bookbinding and Restoration (Aber), the São Paulo Association of Conservators and Restorers of Cultural Heritage (APCR), the Rio Grande do Sul Association of Conservators and Restorers of Cultural Heritage (AcorRS), the Paraná Association of Restorers and Conservators of Cultural Heritage (ARCOit), and the Minas Gerais Association of Conservators-Restorers (Amcor).



Each association has its own statute and operates at a regional level without a centralizing entity. Among the seven active associations, ABER is the only one with national representation. Its boards work on a voluntary basis, and membership dues account for the main source of income.

In Brazil, one of the aspects that legitimizes the professional conservation associations the most is the fact that they strive to achieve the regulation of the profession in the legal sphere. In this sense, some important steps have already been taken, but major obstacles still need to be overcome in an attempt to consolidate the profession, mainly because it lies within the area of culture, in a country with so many economic and social problems.