Exploring the Past. An ongoing research project about the development of conservation in Austria.

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Research project: “The development of conservation in the years 1950-2000 in Austria: Tacit Knowledge and Disciplinary Professionalisation” at the Institute of Conservation – Restoration at the Academy of fine Arts Vienna, Austria.

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https://www.oenb.at/Ueber-Uns/Forschungsfoerderung/Jubilaeumsfonds.html

Project partners: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek – Institute for Conservation; BDA – Federal Monuments Authority Austria, Department for Conservation and Restoration; Universität Wien, Institut für europäische Ethnologie; Audiovisuelles Archiv

Publications:


The interviews (audio/video files and transcripts) are stored at the archive of the Academy of fine Arts Vienna with restricted access for research only. Delicate passages are barred for 70 years. Selected parts can be openly accessed via audiovisuelles archiv.

Sources

- Biographical problem-centered expert interviews
  - The aim: to unearth, process and preserve knowledge that otherwise would vanish eventually about 10 interviews for each specialization
  - Sampling: The choice of the interview partners was based on their specialization, age, location, institutional affiliations, education and last but not least availability and willingness to contribute.
  - Systematic – theoretical – snowball
  - The problem-centered expert interview:
    - interview guide – recording – audio or video file – statistical data – postscriptum
  - Software:
    - https://www.audiotranskription.de/f4;
    - https://nattads.com/
  - Ethical aspects
    - „principle of informed consent“
    - „principle of non-damage“
  - The interviews (audio/video files and transcripts) are stored at the archive of the Academy of fine Arts Vienna with restricted access (for research only).

Research → Sampling → Research → Interview Guide → Interview → Transcription → Communicative Validation → Analysis → Storage

Research design

Quantitatively oriented survey

- The aim: to reach as many protagonists as possible who were active within the time frame (1950-2000) and specialisations of interest (paper and wall paintings conservation).

Additional sources

- documentaries and other material (accidental sources)
  - like diaries, recipe books, photos
  - the results of the restorations on the objects
  - estates of conservators
  - lists of participants at conferences
  - annual reports and other publications from/about various institutions
  - theses, written at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration – all kind of literature published by conservators

Historic of Conservation in Austria

Wall Painting Conservation (Magdalena Schindler)

Federal Monuments Authority Austria

Private workshops

Establishment of a formal academic training in conservation at the Academy of fine Arts Vienna (Sigrid Eyb-Green)

Paper Conservation (Catherine Bouvier)

Archives Libraries Collections Museums Private workshops

Triangulation

Software:

- https://www.audiotranskription.de/f4;
- https://nattads.com/

Ethical aspects

- „principle of informed consent“
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(emails)

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Museums workshops

Private workshops

Collecting additional sources - estates, private archives, etc.

- annual reports and other publications
- documentations and other material
- like diaries, recipe books, photos
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