

Textiles Working Group Newsletter  
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**A message from the outgoing Textiles  
Working Group Coordinator:**

This is my final column as Coordinator of the Textiles Working Group and it will be a very short one. I simply -- and most sincerely -- want to thank all of the Assistant Coordinators who served in this triennium: Sarah Scaturro, Ali Nasir, Suzan Meijer, and Mika Takami. Mika, having served three terms (i.e., nine years) as an Assistant Coordinator, has reached the maximum time permitted. Therefore, extra thanks go to her for her steadfast support. Sarah, Ali, and Suzan will continue as Assistant Coordinators in the next triennium, so I extend thanks to them too.

Additional and important thanks go to Rebecca Rushfield, for her work as *Newsletter* editor. These infrequent publications would never have happened without her!!

More thanks to Dr. Regula Schorta, Director, Bettina Niekamp, Head of the Textile Conservation Workshop, and their colleagues at the Abegg Stiftung for hosting the Interim Meeting and to Dr. Mie Ishii for arranging for the Textiles Working Group excursion during the 2019 ICOM Kyoto Conference.

Next-to-last thanks are a thanks-in-advance to Sarah Benson for standing for Textiles Working Group Coordinator for the next triennium. Sarah has written an introduction

and has shared some ideas for the upcoming triennium. (See below). She is bringing new energy and enthusiasm to the group and I know she will do a fantastic job.

Finally, thanks to all of the members who have contributed ideas, papers, and energy to this working group. It has been an honor to work with you. Here's to our continued success and growth in 2020 – 2023!

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**A message from the incoming Textiles  
Working Group Coordinator:**

I am very pleased to be taking over the responsibilities of the ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group Coordinator for the next triennial and would like to quickly introduce myself and share some of my aspirations for the next three years.

I have a background in fashion design and I worked for several years as the assistant to an author of how-to-sew books. We wrote about all types of sewing from industrial textbook techniques to haute couture methods. This gave me insight into the museum world and the wonderful work of fashion museums around the world as we used the garments in

their collections to learn construction and assembly techniques. The editing and sewing experience I gained working in this role gave me a very good background for becoming a textile conservator and taught me the importance of publishing.

During my years working on a textile conservation masters degree at the University of Glasgow, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with and conserve fabulous couture garments during an internship at the Musée Galliera in Paris. Though this would be my closest experience with haute couture garments as a conservator, I have enjoyed working on many other textile artifacts ranging from Asian textiles to the variety of modern materials found in textile collections. Since graduation, I have worked in several countries beginning in Singapore, then moving to Qatar, and most recently to Norway where I have been the last three years.

I believe that having always worked and studied as an expat, gives me quite a unique look on our world of textile conservation. There are so many differences in our field around the world. It is wonderful to see how different people come up with solutions to the same treatment problems or to various environmental challenges or to the challenges of restricted budgets or lack of access to conservation grade materials. Best of all, however, has been gaining a large network of wonderful and intelligent conservators who are passionate about conservation, museums, and our profession. I very much look forward to helping to represent textile conservators from around the world and hope to make it easier for them to be involved in the activities of the ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group.

Especially since this past year has been one for the records in its challenges,

disappointments and complete bizarreness, I would like to end by looking forward: During the next three years, the three points that I believe are most important for our ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group going forward are:

1. Greater involvement and inclusion of textile conservators from all countries
2. Ease of sharing experiences, questions, and ideas
3. Gaining a better knowledge of how our profession is viewed in different countries. Is conservation even considered a profession in your country?

What that our working group will do over the next three years is important for you? Always feel free to contact me and give your insights, ideas, and feedback!

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**A note from outgoing Assistant Coordinator, Mika Takami:**

It has been such a privilege to serve as an Assistant Coordinator for the Textiles Working Group since the 2011 Lisbon Triennial Conference and to meet my wonderful fellow textile conservators from around the globe. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of you through the various interesting activities of the working group. Reviewing and grading the abstracts and papers submitted for meetings was time-consuming, but never failed to be a rewarding experience. I got to know authors and to learn about the latest thinking on old topics and new topics, experiments, and techniques. My professional development definitely benefitted from my work. I will cherish the valuable experience I've gained

from this role and will gladly support the working group in any capacity.

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## ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group

**September 10, 2020**

### Online planning meeting summary

Twenty ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group members attended this online meeting to share ideas for the next triennium. The meeting was led by outgoing Coordinator, Deborah Trupin, and (presumed) incoming Coordinator Sarah Benson. Assistant Coordinators Mika Takami, Sarah Scaturro, and Ali Nasir participated, as did ICOM-CC Directory Board member Kate Seymour (liaison to Working Groups) and ICOM-CC Secretary, Joan Reifsnyder.

Deborah began by introducing and thanking the Assistant Coordinators – Mika, Sarah, Ali, and Suzan Meijer (who was unable to attend the meeting) and *Newsletter* editor, Rebecca Rushfield. She reminded the members to vote for the Directory Board and for the Textiles Working Group Coordinator and spoke about the re-scheduled Beijing Triennial Conference (see below).

The participants each took a few minutes to introduce themselves. There were people from at least eleven countries, calling in at times ranging from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. One member was on her commute home from work; others were drinking their morning coffee.

Sarah Benson, incoming Working Group Coordinator, introduced herself. She announced that Assistant Coordinators Sarah, Ali, and Suzan would be continuing in their roles, but that Mika had reached the term limit for an Assistant Coordinator. Working Groups can have up to six Assistant Coordinators, and Sarah said she will be seeking to fill the three available slots. She is hoping to recruit Assistant Coordinators from areas other than Northern Europe, the U.K., and the U.S., so that the group will become even more international.

Sarah then led a discussion of ideas for the upcoming triennium. She proposed having informal, online, interim meetings that would allow more Textiles Working Group members participate. She asked for ideas and members contributed quite a few. Among them: painted textiles (in conjunction with the Paintings Working Group), plastics (in conjunction with the Modern Materials Working Group), discussions with authors of recently published works, tips on tools, case studies focusing on specific topics, sessions in which a member can ask for suggestions on how to approach a challenging project. Sarah encouraged members to send her their ideas for interim meetings and discussions. She also plans to conduct a survey of all of the Textiles Working Group members to see what they would like to do over the course of the next triennium.

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**Triennial Programme Review 2017-2020**  
**Submitted August 2020 for publication in the**  
**2020 ICOM-CC Triennial Conference Preprints**

**Assistant Coordinators**

Suzan Meijer  
Rijksmuseum  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Ali Nasir  
National Museum Institute of History of Arts  
Conservation and Museology  
New Delhi, India

Sarah Scaturro  
Cleveland Museum of Art  
Cleveland, OH, USA

Mika Takami  
Historic Royal Palaces  
Surrey, United Kingdom

**Interim Meetings**

The highlight of the ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group 2017–2020 triennial period was the Interim Meeting held in June 2019 at the Abegg-Stiftung in Riggisberg, Switzerland. The Abegg-Stiftung and its staff most generously hosted this two-day meeting, called *A Challenging Dimension: The Conservation and Research of Costume and Accessories*. There were 15 full papers, four “peka-kucha” talks, one panel discussion, and ten posters, as well as a lab tour that included two student presentations. There also was time to visit the museum and connect with friends and colleagues. The presenters came from thirteen countries ranging from the U.S. to Japan and from Sweden to Brazil. The participants came from twenty-two countries. Of the 130 participants, approximately half were ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group members. The quality of the presentations was high and the discussions were enthusiastic. Many attendees commented on

how energetic and warm the atmosphere was. Many of the presenters have agreed to write up their presentations and we are working on publishing these online.

In September 2019, in connection with the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto, ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group member Mei Ishii organized an afternoon of visits for members of the Textiles Working Group and the ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Costume who were attending the General Conference. Mie arranged for us to visit the conservation studio and collections storage areas of the Kyoto Costume Institute and the textile conservation studio of Shōkakudo, a private company contracted to work on important Japanese national heritage objects in the National Museum. In both studios, we were thrilled to see the pieces being treated and the high quality of work. We are very grateful to Mie for organizing this special day.

**Newsletter**

The Textiles Working Group published a *Newsletter* in July 2020 and will publish another to conclude the triennium in September. The Working Group Coordinator takes responsibility for the small number of newsletters this triennial.

**Triennial Conference Preparations**

The Textiles Working Group received twenty abstract submissions for the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Beijing. Of these, eleven were chosen to be developed into papers and of those submissions, nine were chosen for publication and presentation. The papers reflect a wide range of topics and should make for a most interesting session and publication. Of the fourteen poster

abstracts received, eight were selected for presentation. We hope that many Textiles Working Group members will be able to

participate in the Triennial Conference in Beijing next May.

### **ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group papers selected for the Beijing Triennial Conference**

The Triennial is scheduled to take place in Beijing on May 17- 21, 2021.( See: <https://www.icom-cc2020.org/>) Writing this in September, some eight months before the scheduled date of the conference we hope that by May travel options will have been restored to a modicum of normality. While the idea of travel still seems challenging, the organizers are hoping that the world health crisis will be enough under control to make this possible.

The Textiles Working Group had nine papers accepted for presentation. These will be published in the *Preprints*, which will be available shortly before the conference to those registered for the Triennial Meeting. The Textile Working Group authors will present their papers on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The papers that were accepted are listed below. The subjects include case studies, research, and philosophical topics. Together, they will make a most informative session. We hope to see many of you there!

Na Chen et al.	Repair and protection of umbrella fabrics at the Hangzhou Arts and Crafts Museum
Maria Franzon et al.	Preserving a sleeping beauty: Remodeling a baroque state bed and developing strategies for long-term display
Mie Ishii	The wabi-sabi of boro rags and the art of textile conservation
Karin Hindborg et al.	Electrolytic cleaning of silver threads – Effects of electrolytes on the condition of silk
Johanna Nilsson et al.	Analysis and conservation of painted silk colours: Protecting paint and dyes with barriers
Pedro Máximo Rocha et al.	Strain development in historic tapestries
Wang Shujuan et al.	Diversified restoration of fragile ancient Chinese silks
Konstantina Tsatsouli et al.	Mystery solved! Conservation and analysis as problem solvers for a group of metallic decorative braids from the excavation of the Holy Temple of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Thessaly, Greece
Lieve Watteeuw et al.	Early 16th-century mix-media retables: Study and conservation of the silk flowers in the Enclosed Gardens of Mechelen