



9th International Conservation Conference

"Textiles in Artifacts. Research-Conservation-Innovation".

April 15-17, 2026 – Torun

The Department of Paper and Leather Conservation-Restoration at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, together with the Polish Institute of World Art Studies warmly invite for upcoming conference "Textiles in Artifacts. Research-Conservation-Innovation". Conference will take place in Torun on April 15-17, 2026 in The Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu Torun, Waly gen. Sikorskiego 13, 87-100 Torun.

Textiles are an inseparable element of cultural heritage - sometimes entirely unnoticed or secondary, yet highly significant in the context of research, conservation and the long-term preservation of historic objects. Their original utilitarian purpose has also acquired exceptional significance as an important symbol of power, wealth and affiliation with a specific group. As well as a component of key cultural assets, artistic crafts, archival materials, ethnographic objects, furniture, accessories and many others. The issue of integrating materials within heritage objects, in which textiles constitute an integral component presents a complex challenge faced by art conservators, curators and archivists. Interdisciplinary collaboration among specialists from diverse fields remains an invaluable contribution to the comprehensive understanding of both the material's properties and its interaction with other substrates within a broader context.

The conference will be dedicated to issues surrounding composite objects incorporating textiles as integral elements. Production, commerce and preservation form interconnected spheres that draw upon multiple influences and disciplines, encompassing significant overlapping aspects of tangible and intangible heritage, cultural history, technical expertise and state-of-the-art research.

In the era of rapid scientific and technological advancement, the conservation of historic textiles is gaining access to entirely new tools, methodologies and materials. The conference will address innovative (and traditional) approaches applied in the examination, conservation, reconstruction, storage and display of textiles – particularly in cases requiring non-standard conservation strategies, such as objects with

heterogeneous material composition, monumental scale or those in a severely degraded condition, while taking into account cultural and environmental challenges. Special emphasis will be placed on technological innovations and interdisciplinary practices with the potential to transform textile conservation – both within major museum institutions and smaller conservation studios.

This event will be an opportunity to present research findings and practical experiences, as well as to exchange ideas among academic communities and practitioners working with textiles, which are an integral part of tangible and intangible heritage.

Thematic Blocs:

1. Textiles in Art History and Material Culture Research - Presence, Significance, Contexts
2. Research on Textiles in Historic Monuments - Importance, Methods, Challenges
3. Textiles in Composite Objects – Interactions of Different Materials and Their Conservation
4. Innovations in Textile Conservations – New Materials, Technologies, Strategies
5. Protection of Textiles in Heritage Sites – Technical and Environmental Challenges/ Between Science, Practice and Heritage
6. Digitalization, Documentation and Access to Collections

We invite conservators, archaeologists, art historians, curators, archivists, anthropologists, artists and other interested in this field to submit paper proposals. The presentation time is 20 minutes. A poster session will be also organized.

The event will be accompanied by an exhibition of historic textile objects at Collegium Maximum, Plac Rapackiego 1, Toruń, as well as a study visit to the Old Town Complex in Toruń.

Abstract submission deadline: December 22, 2025, plc@umk.pl, paperandleather@umk.pl

Abstract structure: Title of the presentation, author's (authors') name(s), affiliation, e-mail address, keywords, abstract text (maximum 500 words), file format – preferred editable format, e.g. doc., font size 12 pt, single line spacing, margins 2.5 cm

Notification of Acceptance or Rejection of Paper and Poster Proposals: January 30, 2026

Conference language : Polish, English

Conference Fee

The conference fee includes registration, participation on paper and poster sessions, catering (April 15-16, 2026), and conference materials:

- 600 PLN / 145 € – regular participants
- 450 PLN / 110 € – speakers
- Students are exempt from the conference fee

Payment Deadline : February 15, 2026

Failure to make the payment by the deadline will be considered a withdrawal from the conference.

Please note: Cancellations made after February 28, 2026 and non-attendance at the conference will not entitle participants to a refund of the conference fee.

