

POST-CONGRESS MESSAGE

“The Plastics Heritage Congress 2019: History, Limits and Possibilities” was successfully held in Lisbon, from 29th to 31st May 2019. The event had more than 200 international participants, from 24 countries, whose presence greatly contributed to the realization of this academic meeting.

The theme of this congress has continuously proven to be of great relevance, covering a wide range of valuable and multidisciplinary approaches, both from theoretical and methodological perspectives, to the study of polymeric materials.

The congress' program was the main highlight of the event as it featured some of the most knowledgeable and respectable specialists in the field of plastics. Jeffrey Meikle, the event's keynote speaker, was one of the many memorable presences in the congress. In his lecture titled "Rethinking Early Plastics: The Rhetoric Of New Materials", offered new insights into the perception of the material, a discussion which was complemented by Hugh Karraker's work. Producer and great-grandson of Leo Hendrick Baekeland, Karraker presented the documentary film “All Things Bakelite”, which explores the life and work of Leo Hendrick Baekeland. The viewing of the film was followed by a round table debate, where academic leading figures, such as Robert Friedel, Susan Mossman, Tom Fisher and Penny Sparke, as well as businessmen working with plastics, as Jaime Rezola Clemente (Baquelite Llz), Miguel Ritto (Plásticos Santo António), Paulo Almeida (Plasgal), Tiago Coelho (AGI), Pedro Gonçalves (CIRES) were present.

The exhibition “Plasticity – A History of Plastics in Portugal” was also part of the event's agenda. This exhibition (https://www.cm-leiria.pt/pages/673?event_id=4163), taking place at Museu de Leiria, has been met with great enthusiasm since its official inauguration in April this year, where around 400 people gathered once again to discuss the relevance of plastic materials.

The congress was preceded by the YHIP 2019 Summer School/Research Seminar on Historic Polymeric Materials (HIPOMS) and Cultural Heritage Research, held in combination with “The Plastics Heritage Congress 2019”, on the 27th and 28th of May, and whose main purpose was to create an open space to address a variety of topics related to science and culture research of materials cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, PVC, PMMA and organic colorants.

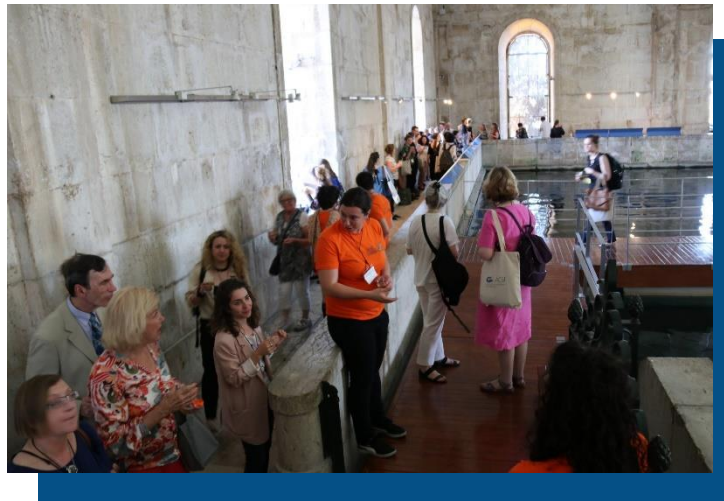
On the Congress website (<http://plasticsheritage2019.ciuhct.org/>) it is possible to find a "Post-Congress" section, containing a photo gallery of the event as well as additional information: <http://plasticsheritage2019.ciuhct.org/post-congress/>

The following page features some of the feedback given by some of the attendees about the main event.

Maria Elvira Callapez
Sofia Rodrigues



"Congratulations on organising a very stimulating and successful conference"



"I am very impressed by the wonderful programme of your conference (...) I think this will be one of the best conferences on plastics ever."



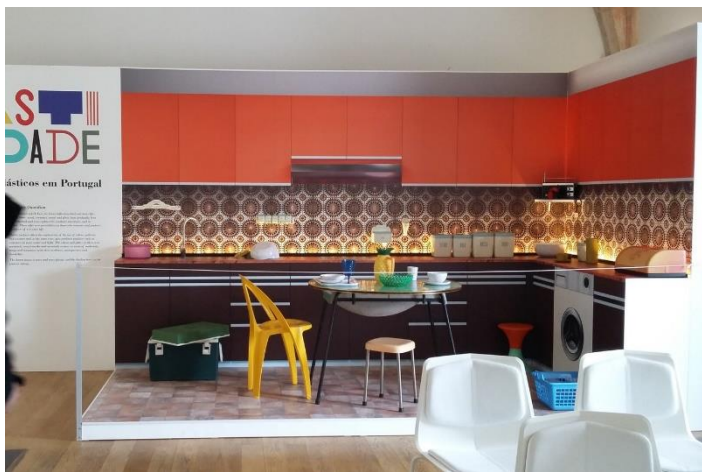
"(...) thank you for the excellent Congress (...) I enjoyed your exhibition and the events too!"



"Thank you very much for the outstanding Congress and the perfect organization."



"Thanks once again for a well organised conference, I enjoyed it. You and your team have done a great job. I have met old and new friends which is an important part of attending a conference."



"Thank you for a lovely conference. Interesting talks and delightful excursions. And of course in Lisbon- which was wonderful. Thanks also to your dedicated and most pleasant team."

POST-YHIP MESSAGE

The YHIP 2019 Summer School/Research Seminar on Historic Polymeric Materials (HIPOMS) and Cultural Heritage Research was held on the 27th and 28th of May in combination with the Plastics Heritage: History, Limits and Possibilities Congress, organized by the chairs Maria João Melo and Maria Elvira Callapez and co-chairs Artur Neves and Eva Mariasole Angelin.

This two-day seminar course intended for graduate students, post-docs, and other scientists with comparable levels of experience and education, had 14 participants, which resulted in 5 oral presentations and 7 poster presentations. These presentations addressed a broad spectrum of issues related on science and cultural research of materials such as cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, PVC, PMMA and organic colorants.

The YHIP 2019 also featured three keynotes talks from remarkable researchers in different fields of study: Robert Friedel, Anita Quye and Günter Lattermann. Ranging from history of science and technology, chemistry, and cultural heritage conservation, their insights allowed the “cross-linking of multiple perspectives, communication and knowledge exchange”. Together with the active participation of the discussion leaders Gabriele Oropallo and Joana Lia Ferreira in fostering a multi-disciplinary discussion, their contributions were essential for a new viewpoint among the emerging professional about the diverse fields that impact historic polymeric materials research and for the development of novel ideas for the future.

The culmination YHIP 2019 was the roundtable discussion entitled “Materialities and Heritage” focused on the questions brought by the different approaches presented. Themes such as the meaning of plastics in society, the problems of the anthropocene or on good practices in the preservation of historical plastics were debated.

One of the main goals of this two-day seminar course was also to breed friendships to blossom into fruitful collaborations. It was clear throughout the event how this meeting nurtured the dialogue among the younger minds who share this same goal of valuing and preserving HIPOMS. We are pleased to conclude that all the proposed objectives for YHIP 2019 have been met.



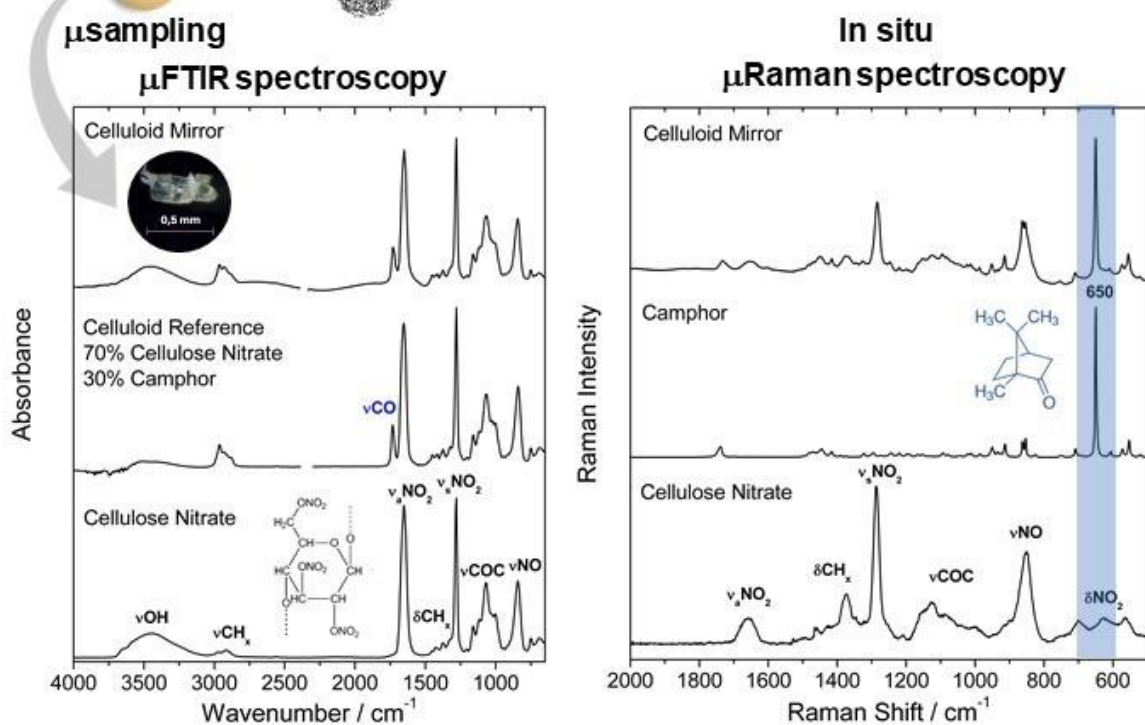
One of the moments of YHIP 2019 was the analysis of an ivory celluloid hand mirror owned by Robert Friedel who gently allowed its characterization in the Scientific Laboratory of the Department of Conservation and Restoration in FCT NOVA. This example is demonstrative of some analytical techniques which allow the determination of the material composition of these artifacts. Check out the results below:



Characterization of an Ivory Celluloid Hand Mirror



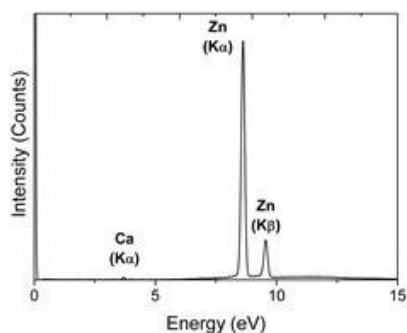
Fingerprint techniques



Both infrared and Raman spectra match with the molecular fingerprint of a celluloid reference. The presence of **camphor** is unequivocally identified by Raman microscopy by its main peak at 650 cm^{-1} .

In Situ Elemental Analysis

X-ray fluorescence



"Opaque celluloid usually contains mineral matter, **zinc oxide** being used commonly when a white or **ivory celluloid** is desired"

Sachs and Byron, JIEC, 1921