

CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Clara Rellensmann
Germany - Allemagne



Clara Rellensmann (Germany). Academic Assistant and PhD Candidate at the Department of Architectural Conservation of the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU). 2011-2016 Project Coordinator and later Technical Consultant for the UNESCO Offices in Bangkok and Yangon. 2010-2011 Fellow of the Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs. M.A. in World Heritage Studies from BTU Cottbus (2007-2009), B.A. in European Studies with majors in History of Art and Cultural Studies from the University of Passau (2004-2007).

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

I have worked in the heritage industry for nearly seven years applying ICOMOS Charters and principles. Having worked for the UNESCO Offices in Bangkok and Yangon for five years where my work was concerned with the implementation of World Heritage projects, I have also gained an in-depth understanding of the World Heritage system and its processes. Further to this I have worked on the political level of international cooperation in heritage conservation in the culture department of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and am currently involved on the academic level conducting PhD research and lecturing at the Department of Architectural Conservation of BTU Cottbus.

During these past years as an emerging professional in the heritage conservation field I have come across several issues facing the practice of the profession, as well as the profession itself, some of which I would like to address, if elected as board member of ICOMOS. In particular, I would like to campaign for a younger generation of professionals with new ideas and their active involvement in the heritage conservation discourse and practice through ICOMOS on local and global scale.

Thus, the key areas I would like to contribute to include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Increase the participation of emerging professionals:** Lowering the threshold for younger professionals to become active in ICOMOS, so that they can help shaping ICOMOS in its role as a leading actor in the cultural heritage field globally and locally. This may mean employing new means of communication and strengthening ICOMOS' social media presence, as well as, creating a culture of inter-generational collaboration, appreciation and support within ICOMOS;
- **World Heritage:** Improving the mechanisms of communication between the different levels of World Heritage in ICOMOS and ensuring a transparent evaluation process despite the increased politicization of World Heritage. Here, too, involving the younger generation of professionals in the evaluation and monitoring processes.

Aspiring to the fair treatment of World Heritage matters and fostering international cooperation to address ICOMOS recommendations, particularly for contexts with comparatively low technical and financial resources available.

- **Universities and ICOMOS:** Developing joint programmes with universities in order to generate interest of students in the fields of work of ICOMOS. Enhancing collaboration between ICOMOS and universities in terms of conducting relevant research projects, as well as, in terms of mobilizing technical and financial resources for practical international cooperation projects, particularly for heritage at risk.

I believe that with my previous experience in global heritage conservation practice on the political as well as on the practical level I am well prepared to become a member of the ICOMOS board. At the same time, working as a board member would significantly broaden my professional experience and be a great opportunity for me to learn from and contribute to discussions on a global scale intended for local impact. Further to this, I believe that my in-depth understanding of the issues concerning emerging professionals in the cultural heritage field would make me a suitable candidate to work towards developing respective strategies to improve the situation for emerging professionals in ICOMOS.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Clara Rellensmann works as Academic Assistant at the Chair of Architectural Conservation at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU). She holds a Masters in "World Heritage Studies" from the BTU and a Bachelor of Arts in "European Studies" from the University of Passau. Since 2015 Clara has been conducting PhD research on Bagan (Myanmar). Since April 2017 her research is being carried out in association with the German Research Foundation (DFG) research project "Cultural and Technological Values of Historic Buildings". Prior to joining academia Clara gained several years of professional experience in the cultural heritage sector having worked for museums and cultural institutions in Costa Rica, Bahrain, Germany, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. From 2011 to 2016 she worked for the UNESCO Offices in Bangkok and Yangon with a focus on building technical capacity of local governments and heritage professionals in cultural and natural heritage protection. World Heritage and Tentative List Sites she has been involved with professionally include the Historic City of Ayutthaya in Thailand; The Pyu Ancient Cities, Bagan Archaeological Site and Monuments and the Northern Mountain Forest Complex in Myanmar; the Town of Luang Prabang and Hin Nam No National Protected Area in Laos; as well as The Pearling Train in Bahrain.