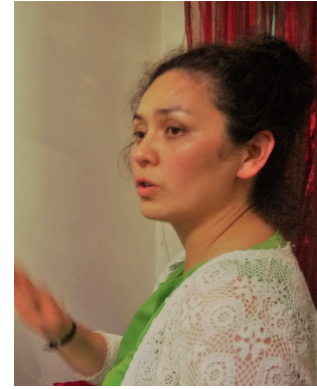


**Title:** Managing Museum Collections, Climate and Colour Change

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**Abstract**

States of material change are intrinsic and objective material properties, but how we interpret that change and perceive damage is reliant on custodian knowledge, localised contexts and the cultural environment. In conserving collections, museum standards have evolved to manage change. Thresholds for temperature, relative humidity, air quality and specifically lighting to control colour change exist, but have evolved out of universal museum practices from the global north.

This paper examines current lighting guidelines to manage colour change of museum collections such as illumination levels, total light budgets and just noticeable fading. It considers their applicability to Southeast Asian collections, where higher temperatures, relative humidities and potentially pollution, alter the lifetime of the material fabric of collections, and thereby their fading rates and colour changes. How then can the principles of optimum illumination levels and just noticeable fading be applied to museums in tropical climates? Although there maybe colour changes due to the physical fabric of collections and climate, what levels of fading are acceptable over a given period of time? These questions of colour change and acceptability will be examined in the context of Southeast Asia, what collections should look like, their situated contexts and values, and history of care.

**Biography**

Dr Nicole Tse is a Senior Lecturer at the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, The University of Melbourne and has a long-standing record of research in Southeast Asia. Her research focuses on regionally relevant conservation approaches for material culture in tropical Southeast Asia, under the auspices of APTCCARN (Asia Pacific Tropical Climate Conservation Art Research Network, [www.aptccarn.com](http://www.aptccarn.com)). With a strong commitment to cultural materials conservation in tropical climates, she has a PhD and Post-Doctoral studies on canvas paintings and modern paints in tropical environments and has co-convended four international meetings in Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan the Philippines and Indonesia since 2009. Since 2013, she has been the Chief Editor of the AICCM Bulletin, the Australia Institute for Cultural Materials Conservations', peer reviewed journal published by Routledge Taylor and Francis.