

*Historismus*·ch

Réseau suisse de l'historicisme  
Schweizer Netzwerk für Historismus  
Rete svizzera dello storicismo  
Rait svizra d'istorissem



Accademia  
di  
architettura

University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
of Southern Switzerland

**SUPSI**

Dipartimento ambiente  
costruzioni e design



## Swiss Study Day of Historicism

From Database to AI: Digital challenges and opportunities  
for the study, communication and conservation of  
architecture and the interiors of historicism

Mendrisio, 18–19 October 2024

Schweizer Tagung für Historismus  
Journée suisse de l'historicisme  
Giornata svizzera dello storicismo  
Dieta svizra d'istorissem

www.historismus.ch

Today, digital humanities play an important role in the fields of history of art and architecture. They have transformed not only the way in which the public, students and researchers access sources and works of art, but also the way in which they analyse and interpret them. The fifth edition of the Swiss Study Day of Historicism aims to reflect on the current uses and applications of the digital humanities for the study and preservation of architecture and historic interiors, text analysis and editing, as well as to open the debate on future prospects for research into historicism in Switzerland.

18 October

13.30–18.30

SUPSI-DACD, via Flora Ruchat-Roncati 15, Mendrisio

13.30 **Welcome: Roland Hochstrasser, Ufficio dell'analisi e del patrimonio culturale digitale della Divisione della cultura e degli studi universitari (DCSU) del Cantone Ticino**

**Introduction: Roberta Martinis, SUPSI, and Ariane Varela Braga, UNED**

13.45 «Leveraging Large Language Models to Navigate the Vast Textual Resources of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century» Tobias Hodel, Universität Bern

«Neorenaissance: a Website for Comparative Renaissance and Historicism Studies» Edoardo Rossetti, SUPSI

«FAIR-Data in Stained Glass Research Based on the Example of Caspar Gsell, a Swiss Pioneer of Historicism» Katrin Kaufmann and Karin von Wartburg, Vitrocentre Romont

15.15 **Coffee break**

15.45 «Text and Beyond: Potential of Digital Editions for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art Historical Research on the Example of Semper Edition» Elena Chestnova, USI

«Contributing to Wikipedia: Does it Still Make Sense Today? Does it Have a Meaning for Historicism?» Claire Piguët, Département de l'économie, de la sécurité et de la culture, Neuchâtel

17.30 **Keynote lecture: «Digital Horizons in the Humanities – Insights and Perspectives» Peter Fornaro, Universität Basel**

**Conclusions: Elena Chestnova and Sonja Hildebrand, USI**

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19 October

9.30–12.00

USI-Accademia di architettura, Via Turconi 25, Mendrisio

- 9.30 Visit of the Library of the Accademia di architettura, Università della Svizzera italiana  
Guided tour through the converted 19<sup>th</sup>-century hospital, presentation of selected bequests from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Iconoteca, a digital image database developed by the Library.

Welcome by Christoph Frank, Scientific Director

Guided tour and presentation by Angela Windholz, Director, Lorenzo Gobbo, digital services librarian, and Elisabetta Zonca, librarian and archivist

15.30–17.00

Grand Hôtel Muralto, Locarno

Meeting point: 15.00 Locarno railway station

- 15.30 Visit and presentation of the restoration site of the Grand Hôtel Locarno, one of the first large hotels in Switzerland.  
The imposing building, immersed in a large park, preserves elements of great value inside, such as the entirely frescoed vaults of the halls of honour on the ground floor, a monumental double-flight staircase accessed from the entrance hall, and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Murano chandelier that is one of the largest in the world.

Guided tour and presentation by Maria Mazza, Architect deltaZERO, Restorer Mazza Restauri

**Registration:**

Study Day Mendrisio and visit Library Accademia di architettura:

By 14 October 2024, writing to [roberta.martinis@supsi.ch](mailto:roberta.martinis@supsi.ch)

Visit Grand Hôtel Muralto:

by 30 September 2024, writing to [mazza@deltazero.com](mailto:mazza@deltazero.com)