

Curriculum Vitae

Name Prof. Dr. Stefan Simon
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Profile

Stefan Simon is since 2005 Director of the Rathgen Research Laboratory with the National Museums Berlin, Germany.

The German American heritage scientist earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich. Simon has broad experience in trans-disciplinary research and international institutional management. He served as a Council Member and Vice President of ICCROM, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and as President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites' (ICOMOS) Scientific Committee for Stone (ISCS).

As Inaugural Director of Yale's Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Director of Yale's Global Cultural Heritage Initiatives (2014-2019), Stefan Simon prioritized the advancement of sustainable conservation strategies triggered by the global climate crisis and contributed to fundraising. He is a leading voice in the international "Culture in Crisis" debate and acting on public stage as advocate against illicit traffic of cultural property. Within the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, he established the Taskforce Risk Management in 2020 and coordinates the emergency preparedness efforts of the Foundation.

Stefan Simon received the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award of a Distinguished Research Chair in Arts and Social Sciences to Canada for the 2024-2025 academic year at Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. An ICOM Member since 1996, he switched his primary affiliation from IC-CC to IC: Security in 2022. In December 2025, Simon was elected to the Board of ICOM Germany.

Simon is a corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute and been recognized with Honorary Professorships at X'ian Jiaotong University, China, and the Technical University Berlin. He has co-authored and published more than 150 articles on the preservation of cultural heritage. Trilingual in German, English and Polish, he is also fluent in French, with a working knowledge in Arabic.

Work Experience

Since 2005	Director, Rathgen-Forschungslabor, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz
2024-2025	Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Research Chair in Arts and Social Sciences to Canada from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada
2016 - 2019	Director, Global Cultural Heritage Initiatives, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2014 - 2016	Inaugural Director, Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH), Yale University, New Haven, CT

2001 - 2005 Head of Building Materials Section (Senior Scientist), Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles

1993 - 2014 Freelance Conservation Consultant

Education

2001 Dr. rer.nat., LMU Munich, magna cum laude

1987 Diplom (Degree in Chemistry), LMU Munich

1981 Admission to the German National Scholarship Foundation

1980 Abitur (A-level) International AFCENT (Allied Forces Central Europe) School, Brunssum, Netherlands

Professional Activities and Memberships

2025- Board Member ICOM Germany

2023 - Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Gelati Rehabilitation Committee, Patriarchal Throne of Georgia

2023 Member of the Restricted Drafting Group of the European Commission for the new EU Partnership "Resilient Cultural Heritage"

2022 - National Delegate for Germany, Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media (BKM) EU Joint Programming Initiative "Cultural Heritage"

2017 - 2025 Associate Chair, Scientific Advisory Board, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

2017 - Member of Steering Committee, Global Consortium for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (<https://gcpch.org/>)

2016 Co-organizer of the 8th UN Global Colloquium of University Presidents "Preservation of Cultural Heritage", Yale University

2016 - 2019 Fellow, Yale Law School, Information Society Project (ISP)

2016 - 2019 Senior Cultural Heritage Advisor, American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Cultural Heritage Initiatives

2014 - Honorary Professor, Technische Universität Berlin

2012 - Corresponding member, German Archaeological Institute

2009 - 2011 Vice President, Finance/Administration of International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) Council, Rome

2009 - 2018 Adjunct Professor, X'ian Jiaotong University (PR China)

2008 - 2018 President, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Stone (ISCS)

2005 - 2013 Elected Member, ICCROM Council

2005 - Expert member, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH)

2002 - U.S. and German voting member, ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Stone (ISCS)

2000 - Member International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

1996 - Member International Council of Museums (ICOM)