

It was with great sorrow and disbelief we received the message that our dear colleague and friend, Cristina Bianchi, had passed away October 26, 2017. From one instant to another, at the blink of an eye, her life was over. Reminding the rest of us of how fragile we all are, how important it is to live life to its fullest. Cristina, who had turned 60 this year, was always full of life, she embraced it! She loved to travel, spoke several languages and had such a genuine interest in all that she encountered, be it people or places or food or culture. Cristina meant so much to so many people in our community within the International Council on Archives (ICA), as a professional, as an archivist, and as a person. She had such a beautiful ambience about her. She was knowledgeable, kind, caring, giving and also never afraid of speaking her mind. She was quite witty, the kind of quiet wit that needs to sink in and that you would chuckle when remembering hours later. She also had the best laugh and wasn't stingy about spreading it around. I first met Cristina when I joined the ICA Section of Professional Associations (SPA) in Brisbane in 2012. We were on the steering committee together for four years and had started on a new four-year term together in Seoul in 2016. Cristina representing Switzerland, I representing Norway. I was so happy that she continued on because of all her knowledge and experience, both within archives and records management, but also because of her language skills and her passion and drive as an ICA volunteer. Just two weeks ago we met via Skype discussing a workshop we were going to do together during the ICA conference in Mexico City late November. That I am now writing an obituary is so tragic, sad, and unreal. Cristina has left massive footprints in all of us who knew her. Not from stomping, but from walking humbly. And oozing of wisdom, kindness and joy. I will miss Cristina immensely, both as an archivist, a fellow ICA volunteer, a travel companion and as a friend. And I know that there are people in all corners of the world, feeling the same way. In China, Chile, Senegal, Poland, Spain, North America, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Israel. And many more. We send our thoughts to Cristina's family in this time of grief and promise that she will live on forever in our minds and happy memories. Rest in peace, Cristina Bianchi.

Vilde Ronge

Chair of ICA Section of Professional Associations