



Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de México

OPUS-UNAM Summer school in Paris 3-7 July 2023

Inventing, analysing and restoring color : art history and heritage science

As part of the partnership between Sorbonne Université and the National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM, the Observatory of Heritage of the Sorbonne University Alliance and the LANCIC (Laboratorio Nacional de Ciencias para la Investigación y Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural, National Laboratory for the Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage) of UNAM are organizing the second edition of a week-long summer school in Paris (France) on the subject of the materiality of color.

After the first edition in [Mexico City in 2022](#), this second summer school entitled “**Inventing, analysing and restoring color**” will bring together **art history and heritage science**.

The objective of this **interdisciplinary event** is to invite students in art history, heritage science, archaeology, chemistry and physics to discover and experiment with new methodologies in order to better understand the **materiality of color**. In keeping with the material turn which is now transforming the humanities, this summer school will put forward an object-based approach. The question of colour – whether pigment or dye – nonetheless complicates more traditional object-focused analyses because colour is not only one among the many properties of the object (i.e. a mere, secondary ‘ornament’), but is a substance with a material history of its own, which can change over time. We therefore wish to approach all the different facets of color matter, including archaeological, topographical or ethnographic restitutions.

The candidates selected for this summer school which will be **hosted by Sorbonne Université in Paris** will engage in various activities including theoretical presentations, practical workshops and visits to collections. The object-based workshops will be designed to introduce students to **cross-disciplinary practices** and to bring them to associate the humanities and exact sciences in their research. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their work and enrich their knowledge and skills in a **scientific environment of excellence**.

Thanks to this second summer school on the materiality of color, which is part of a wider innovative program supported by the International Relations Department of Sorbonne University, OPUS aims to promote interdisciplinarity in heritage studies.



⇒ HOW TO APPLY?

Applications are open to **Master 1 and 2 as well as doctoral students from the Sorbonne Université Alliance and the UNAM**, working on the theme of color and materiality in all disciplines (humanities, arts, and sciences).

Applicants must submit the following documents via email (frederique.andry-cazin@sorbonne-universite.fr)

Before March 3rd 2023 (for UNAM students) and before April 6th 2023 (for ASU students):

- CV
- a 500-word cover letter explaining how the candidate's research may contribute to the summer school : Name, department/university, current position (PhD student, postdoc, other); educational background; research activity and interests; motivations for participating in the school.
- The name and email address of one referee

⇒ COST :

The summer school will be free of charge.

Sorbonne University will offer lunch and coffee breaks to all participants.

Sorbonne University will provide accommodation to the selected UNAM students in a student residence in Paris (single or double room depending on availability).

Participants must cover their own travel costs. However travel grants will be available to a selection of participants. Please ask to your local contact for information if you wish to apply.

⇒ VENUE:

The school will be housed by Sorbonne Université, mainly located in the heart of Paris : [Sorbonne Université Campus Pierre et Marie Curie](#)

⇒ CONTACTS:

- **For OPUS-ASU** : Mrs. Frédérique ANDRY-CAZIN, General Secretary, OPUS (frederique.andry-cazin@sorbonne-universite.fr)

- **For LANCIC-UNAM** : Dr Sandra ZETINA OCANA, researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM (sandra.zetina@gmail.com)



ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Alliance Sorbonne Université

- [Observatory of heritage of Sorbonne University Alliance - OPUS](#)

OPUS is one of the 9 interdisciplinary institutes of the Alliance Sorbonne Université. Directed by Nathalie Ginoux, Professor of Art History and Archaeology of the Celtic Worlds since 2020, its aim is to **develop interdisciplinary research on all types of heritage**, tangible and intangible, drawing on the strengths of the institutions that make up the Alliance Sorbonne Université in the wider context of its European and extra-European academic partners.

The research and teaching community around heritage at the Alliance Sorbonne Université is :

- Nearly 70 research and training structures working on heritage-related subjects.
- Rich naturalist, ethnographic, anthropological, zoological, scientific and technical, medical and documentary collections, as well as a strong museological dimension.
- State-of-the-art technical resources, such as a platform for the digitisation and 3D modeling of objects and monuments; a research and training platform on human evolution at the Musée de l'Homme; mobile tools for the non-invasive analysis of materials ...

Some of our partners during the summer school :

- [Laboratoire d'archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale - LAMS](#)

LAMS is a research unit associating Sorbonne University and the CNRS. The research themes of LAMS concern on the one hand (1) the evolution of material production (know-how, raw materials) in specific geo-cultural areas, in relation to exchange networks, and on the other hand (2) the evolution of materials in the long term, with the aim of determining certain informative markers in ancient materials and to identify the mechanisms of chemical transformation with very slow kinetics. This research is carried out both by in-situ characterisation of works of art thanks to the development of portable devices and by the reconstitution of recipes and their physical-chemical study.

- [MONARIS](#)

MONARIS is a physical chemistry laboratory of Sorbonne University and the CNRS. One of its research themes concerns the physical chemistry of cultural heritage objects and materials.

The research issues addressed concern the identification and provenance studies of materials, the deciphering and history of ancient technologies, the study of degradation mechanisms in the context of heritage preservation. The analytical strategies implemented are essentially non-invasive or non-destructive, from the archaeological or conservation sites to the laboratory.

- [Centre André Chastel](#)

The Centre André Chastel is a french research laboratory in art history under the supervision of CNRS, Sorbonne Université and the Ministère de la Culture. Its work focuses on the history of art from the Middle Ages to the present days.

- [Voix Anglophones Littérature et Esthétique - VALE](#)

The research led by the VALE team (*Voix Anglophones Littérature et Esthétique* - UR 4085) focuses on the literature and art of the English-speaking world, from the 16th to the 21st centuries.

UNAM - [LANCIC](#)

The National Laboratory of Sciences for Research and Conservation for Cultural Heritage (LANCIC) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) is supported by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) as a network of five consolidated groups of research on material analysis of cultural heritage. Three groups belong to UNAM and are laboratories at the Institute of Physics (LANCIC-IF), the Institute of Chemistry (LANCIC-IQ) and the Institute of Art History (LANCIC-IIE). The main objectives of LANCIC are the characterization of materials and techniques of cultural heritage to produce knowledge about their history and better conservation strategies, the integration of databases and material for cultural heritage, and the development of methodologies and protocols for conservation projects,