

Ancient Science and Technology of Colour

Pigments, dyes, drugs and their perception in Antiquity

Pisa, 28-29 April 2022



Centro Congressi Le Benedettine

Piazza San Paolo a Ripa d'Arno 16, Pisa

Online on Teams: <https://cfs.unipi.it/c/220428-29-ancient-science>

Please note that, in compliance with Italian regulations, a basic Covid-19 Green-Pass (or digital vaccine exemption certificate) is mandatory to enter the conference rooms. All attendants are requested to wear a FFP2 mask.

Organizers

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Programme

Thursday, April 28

09:15 **Matteo Martelli** (Bologna), **Maria Michela Sassi** (Pisa)
Welcome and Introduction

Morning session. Chair: **Mattia Patti** (Pisa University)

09:30–10:15 **Shiyanthi Thavapalan** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
How to do things with fire and water: Some observations on Mesopotamian craft practices

10:15–11:00 **Eduardo Escobar** (Bologna University)
On the agency of change: Color and renewal in Assyro-Babylonian cultures

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–12:15 **Giovanni Verri** (The Art Institute of Chicago)
It's the *techne* that makes the painter: Studies on the uses of pigments in ancient Greece and Rome

Afternoon session. Chair: **Anna Anguissola** (Pisa University)

14:15–15:15 **Gil Gambash, David Friesem, and Beatrice Pestarino** (Haifa Center for Mediterranean History)
From murex to fabric - The Mediterranean purple

15:15–16:00 **Hariclia Brecolouki** (National Hellenic Research Foundation)
Colour, seduction and persuasion in ancient Greece: The case-study of a marble painted *pyxis* depicting Peitho and Aphrodite

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

16:30–17:15 **Agnès Rouveret** (Paris X - Nanterre)
Certamen artis ac naturae. Matériaux et couleurs dans la définition plinienne de la peinture (*Histoire naturelle*, livre 35)

17:15–18:00 **Chiara Ballestrazzi** (PhD, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)
The semantics of gemstones and their colours in Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia*, Book 37

Friday, April 29

Morning session. Chair: Jan Stubbe Østergaard (Emeritus Research Curator, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek)

09:15–10:15 Vinzenz Brinkmann (Liebighaus, Frankfurt), **Ulrike Koch-Brinkmann** (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen)

The New Overbeck and the new edition of Pseudo-Democritus revisited. I. Ancient texts on colored metals in the light of experimental reconstructions. II. Ancient texts on pigments and dyes in the light of experimental reconstructions

10:15–10:45 Coffee Break

10:45–11:30 Agnese Benzonelli (Cambridge University)

Colouring metals black: A history of patination from ancient Egypt to modern Japan

11:30–12:15 Matteo Martelli (Bologna University)

Divine waters and dyeing ‘sauces’: Changing colours and transforming matter

Afternoon session. Chair: Amneris Roselli (Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli)

14:15–15:00 Cristina Viano (CNRS, Paris)

Nero alchemico: questioni di etimologia e trasmutazione

15:00–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:15 Effie Photos-Jones (Glasgow University)

Ευφυεῖς χειροτέχναι (ingenious craftsmen) and the biotically-generated pigments / medicines of the Greco-Roman world

16:15–17:00 Maria Michela Sassi (Pisa University)

A few remarks on the relationship between materials, technology and colour experience

17:00–17:30 Matteo Martelli (Bologna), **Maria Michela Sassi** (Pisa)

Closing remarks