



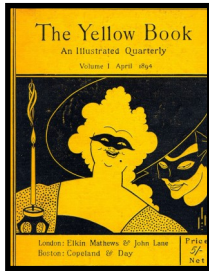
Official launch of CHROMOTOPE

*23 January 2020*



Sorbonne Université - Sorbonne Campus

The ERC Project CHROMOTOPE explores the changes that took place in attitudes to colour in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and notably how the ‘chromatic turn’ of the 1850s mapped out new ways of thinking about colour in literature, art, science and technology throughout Europe.



Britain's industrial supremacy during this period is often perceived through the darkening filter of coal pollution, and yet the industrial revolution transformed colour thanks to a number of innovations like the invention in 1856

of the first aniline dye. Colour thus became a major signifier of the modern, generating new discourses on its production and perception.



The Victorian ‘colour revolution’ which has never been approached from a cross-disciplinary perspective, came to prominence during the 1862 International Exhibition - a forgotten, and yet key, chromatic event which forced poets and artists like Ruskin, Morris and Burges to think anew about the materiality of colour. Rebelling against the bleakness of the industrial present, they invited their contemporaries to learn from the ‘sacred’ colour of the past - a ‘colour pedagogy’ which later shaped the European arts and crafts movement.



**Thursday, 23 January 2020**

**Venue:** Sorbonne Université - Sorbonne Campus - Salle des Actes  
*54 rue Saint-Jacques - 75005 Paris*



**9.10 - 9.30: Welcome tea and coffee**

**9.30 - 9.45: Opening words:**

- ♦ Jean Chambaz, President of Sorbonne Université (TBC) or Nathalie Drach-Temam, Vice-President for Research
- ♦ Alain Tallon, Dean of the Faculté des Lettres and Pascal Aquien, Vice-Dean for Research

**9.45 - 10.00: Introduction: Short presentation of the project and its main objectives**

- ♦ Charlotte Ribeyrol, Principal Investigator of CHROMOTOPE, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne Université

## 10.00 - 10.25: Translating Colour in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

- ♦ Stefano Evangelista, English Faculty, Oxford University
- ♦ Claire Masurel-Murray, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne Université
- ♦ Arnaud Dubois, CNAM/École Nationale Supérieure d'Art, Limoges



CHROMOTOPE explores the multiple modalities of colour translation, a term which we will envisage from a wide range of perspectives: linguistic, chronological, intermedial, spatial and technical.

## 10.25 - 10.50: Colour Matters: New cross-disciplinary approaches to chromatic materiality

- ♦ Kelly Domoney, Conservation Department, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University
- ♦ Clotilde Ferroud, CNAM, and Anne-Laure Carré, Musée des Arts et Métiers



CHROMOTOPE brings together literature, visual culture and the chemistry of pigments and dyes to show that the materiality of colour was central to the chromatic experience of 19<sup>th</sup> century writers and artists.

10.50 - 11.10: Coffee break

11.10 - 11.40: **Exhibiting Colour: Presentation of the international exhibition ‘The Colour Revolution: Art, Fashion and Design in Victorian Britain’, Ashmolean Museum, 2022**

- ♦ Colin Harrison, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University
- ♦ Matthew Winterbottom, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University and Charlotte Ribeyrol, PI, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne Université



CHROMOTOPE will hire a Sorbonne doctoral student to work on John Ruskin's teaching collection in the Ashmolean. Ruskin was one of the most important chromophiles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His praise of the 'sanctity of colour' will shape the Ashmolean exhibition on the Victorian colour revolution which will open in 2022.

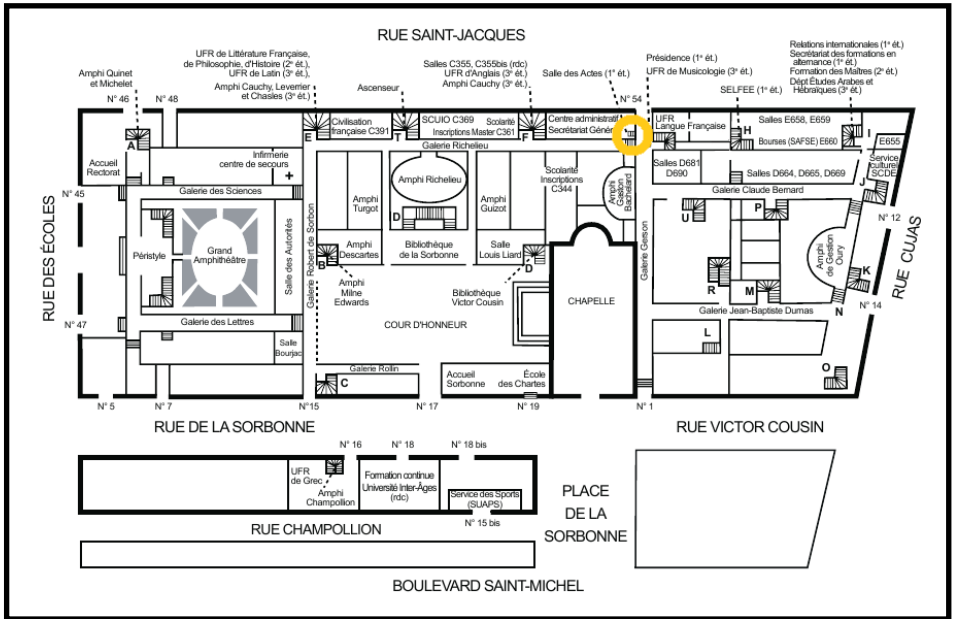
11.40 - 12.00: Questions and discussion

End of meeting

## Venue

Campus Sorbonne - Salle des Actes

54 rue Saint-Jacques - 75005 Paris



Give your name and the name of the meeting at the entrance : 54 rue Saint-Jacques, and follow the directions:

- ◆ Enter the first corridor on your right, go straight and climb the few stairs
- ◆ The Club des Enseignants is the last door on your right just after the stairs
- ◆ The Salle des Actes is in front of you



Charlotte RIBEYROL (Principal Investigator)

[ribeyrolc@gmail.com](mailto:ribeyrolc@gmail.com)

[chromotope@gmail.com](mailto:chromotope@gmail.com)

Julie LEGANGNEUX (Project Manager)

[julie.legangneux@sorbonne-universite.fr](mailto:julie.legangneux@sorbonne-universite.fr)

+33 1 44 27 32 85

The Chromotope team is very grateful to our two partners, The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archeology (Oxford University) and the Musée des Arts et Métiers - CNAM for the images included on this programme.

Cover image: credit: Olivier Jacquet - ©Sorbonne Université



This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 818563).