



## **FITCH LABORATORY BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS, GREECE**

### **Introduction to Ceramic Petrology Course 2021**

From 24 May to 4 June 2021, the Fitch Laboratory will hold a two-week postgraduate training course providing an introduction to ceramic petrology, building upon the Laboratory's expertise on ceramic petrology applications and its extensive reference collections of geological and ceramic thin sections.

The course is designed for people with no (or limited) previous experience on petrology although familiarity with archaeological ceramics will be useful. It is an excellent introduction for students already on a research degree in archaeological materials, as well as for postdoctoral researchers and academics interested in being familiar with ceramic petrology applications. Although the focus is primarily with ceramic materials, the skills learnt are applicable to the study of lithics, building materials, pigments and soils.

The course comprises daily lectures and practicals introducing to optical polarizing light microscopy, the identification of main rock-forming minerals, the classification of rock types, the use and interpretation of geological maps and, subsequently, the analysis of thin sections of archaeological ceramics and processed raw materials to reconstruct provenance and technology. The participants are also introduced to the principles of chemical analysis of ceramics (with a critical review of the most commonly used techniques involving both desktop and portable equipment) and the combined use of chemical and petrographic data. A demonstration will be held on the preparation of thin sections as well as of samples for chemical analysis. Furthermore, a field class to Aegina, including a visit to a traditional pottery workshop, provides practical experience on prospection for pottery raw materials and sampling, as well as contemporary potting practices. Towards the end, each participant has the opportunity to undertake a case study project. In total, the course includes 20 hours of lectures, 28 hours of laboratory practicals, 11 additional contact hours for project accomplishment, plus a day- fieldtrip.

A course manual and a fieldtrip guide are provided for participants covering all aspects of the course and further reading, and a certificate of attendance is issued for each participant upon course completion. The course co- coordinators and instructors are Dr **Evangelia Kiriati** (Director, Fitch Laboratory) and Dr **Ruth Siddall** (UCL Office of the Vice-Provost Education & Student Affairs) with contributions by Dr Noemi Müller (Scientific Research Officer, Fitch Laboratory), Dr Georgia Kordatzaki (Fitch Laboratory Research Associate), Dr Carlotta Gardner (Williams Fellow in Ceramic Petrology, Fitch Laboratory) and Mr Michalis Sakalis (Technician, Fitch Laboratory).

**Course Fee:** The course fee includes tuition, B&B accommodation for 13 days, fieldtrip expenses, all teaching materials, BSA membership for a month including 24 hour access to the superb library and entry to archaeological sites and museums in Greece, plus daily coffee and biscuits, packed lunch for the fieldtrip and a welcome and a farewell meal. The fee is £900 (for shared accommodation in double rooms) or £1100 (for single accommodation). Self-catering accommodation (including breakfast) will be provided at the BSA Hostel, adjacent to the Fitch Laboratory building (<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/member-services/accommodation/>). Travel to and from Athens and health insurance are the sole responsibility of

the course participant. Post-graduate students are recommended to apply to their universities for financial support; limited funding will be available (to cover part of the fees) **only** for students who would otherwise be unable to attend and they should express their interest in such financial support in their application.

**Applications:** Application forms can be downloaded from the BSA website (<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/courses/ceramic-petrology/>). Applications should be submitted to the Fitch Laboratory administrator, Ms Zoe Zgouleta via e-mail ([zoe.zgouleta@bsa.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.zgouleta@bsa.ac.uk)).

Closing date: **12 February 2021**. References must also be received by then through e-mail: it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the references are sent.

The course is limited to 12 places. Selection will be based on the applicant's academic profile, experience in ceramic studies, potential contribution of ceramic petrology to the applicant's research and career plans as well as references/support letters. The successful candidates will be informed by late February 2021. Our aim is to provide on-the-ground and hands-on experiences for the course participants. We remain committed to this goal, despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, if by early April 2021 it becomes clear that we are unable to gather safely as a group, the course will be cancelled or postponed for a later date.

For further information, please check the relevant sections on the British School at Athens web pages (<http://www.bsa.ac.uk/>) or contact either of the two course coordinators, Dr Evangelia Kiriati (e.kiriati@bsa.ac.uk) or Dr Ruth Siddall (r.siddall@ucl.ac.uk).

**Evangelia Kiriati** is an expert in interdisciplinary ceramic analysis and mainly application of ceramic petrology, with a long-established research experience on Mediterranean ceramics of all periods through a broad network of international collaborations. Her research addresses questions of pottery provenance and technology in specific sociocultural contexts, with a strong landscape perspective and a particular interest in exploring issues of identity and mobility of potters. She is Director of the Fitch Laboratory for science-based archaeology of the British School at Athens and Honorary Research Associate at the MacDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. She has published *Pottery Production and Supply at Bronze Age Kolonna, Aegina: An Integrated Archaeological and Scientific Study of a Ceramic Landscape* (with Walter Gauss) and *Human Mobility and Technological Transfer in the Prehistoric Mediterranean* (with Carl Knappett).

**Ruth Siddall** is a geologist with a specialism in applying mineralogical and petrological techniques to better understand archaeological materials. Her main expertise is in using polarised light microscopy to identify the components in pigments, ceramics, cementitious materials and stones. She was a lecturer and senior lecturer in UCL Earth Sciences and has over 20 years' experience of teaching petrological techniques as well as short courses in ceramics and pigments. Ruth is co-author of *The Pigment Compendium: A Dictionary and Optical Microscopy of Historical Pigments* and she has also worked on a number of archaeological and historical projects involving the analysis of building and decorative materials at sites including Ancient Corinth, Pompeii, Çatalhöyük, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral and study the materials used in Roman-period wall painting (plasters and pigments) from sites ranging across the Roman World from Sudan, across Europe to Scotland. Ruth has been involved in a number of archaeological excavations and surveys in Greece and has collaborated with colleagues at the BSA and ASCSA in a number of ceramic petrology studies in the Aegean region.