

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE:
EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND URBAN SPACES OF PRODUCTION
IN THE ANCIENT EAST AND WEST**

Doctoral Seminar
Museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal – Vienne (France)
May 6th-11th, 2019

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

University of Rouen-Normandie: Enora LE QUÉRÉ & Nicolas MONTEIX

Museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal – Vienne:

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This doctoral seminar aims to introduce PhD students and young researchers to the stakes, constraints, and techniques surrounding the use of archaeological experimentation as a basis for shedding light into production practices in ancient urban spaces. It is organized as part of the project “DELPO: Urban Spaces of Production and History of Techniques in Delos and Pompeii”, a five-year program (2017-2021) in collaboration with the French Schools of Athens and Rome. It will be held from Monday the 6th to Saturday the 11th of May 2019, at the Gallo-Roman Museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal – Vienne in France (located 30 km south of Lyon).

Even though experimental archaeology has provided remarkable insights into the daily life and economic structure of prehistoric and protohistoric communities, its methods are rarely applied for the interpretation of historical contexts, such as those of the ancient Greek and Roman world. However, when framed by the implementation of certain protocols, experimentation is often a reliable way for archaeologists to expand their field of observations and test the validity of theory-based hypotheses.

Over the last 30 years, there has been great progress in understanding the processes of production in the Roman world, especially with regard to historiographical issues affecting our view of ancient economy. Nevertheless, our current knowledge is distorted by a marked geographical and historiographical bias, caused by the under-investigation of urban production spaces in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean.

The purpose of this doctoral seminar is to present the latest archaeological evidence from the field, in order to provide a complete picture of urban production practices in the ancient world (both the East and the West). Moreover, it promotes the way in which current experimentation approaches can be amplified by questioning their requirements and limitations. The seminar will be based on an alternation of theory and practice, during which participants will be introduced to several types of production processes. All activities will take place in a specialized area dedicated to experimentation on the site of the Gallo-Roman Museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal – Vienne. To ensure the active involvement of all students in carrying out the experiments, the maximum number of participants is set at 12.

Public addressed

The seminar is open to all graduate students of archaeology (either PhD or young post-docs) as well as historians whose research focuses or relies on these questions and who have a moderate familiarity with this kind of evidence. The workshop will take place from the 6th to the 11th of May 2019, in Saint-Romain-en-Gal (France, 30 km south of Lyon). Lessons will be held in French and English: good knowledge of these languages is therefore required.

Programme

Monday, May 6th, 2019

Morning

- Arrival of participants

Afternoon

- General introduction to the seminar
- Saint-Romain-en-Gal, a site Museum. General introduction et presentation
- Visit of the site and detailed presentation of the diverse experiments carried out
- Presentation of the participants' research projects

Tuesday, May 7th, 2019

Morning

- Experimental archaeology: theoretical introduction
- Ceramic workshops in the Eastern and Western parts of the Mediterranean

Afternoon

- The contribution of experimentation to the ceramic study
- Making bread: theory and experimentation

Wednesday, May 8th, 2019

Morning

Experimental activities (split groups):

- Ceramic firing; demo of clay shaping and turning
- Milling, dough-kneading, and baking

Visit of the museum and the mosaics restauration workshop

Afternoon

Experimental activities (split groups):

- Ceramic firing; demo of clay shaping and turning
- Milling, dough-kneading, and baking

Thursday, May 9th, 2019

Morning

- From sheep to clothes: the textile production chain in Antiquity
- Dyeing workshops in Pompei and in the East
- The contribution of experimentation to the study of dyes and textiles

Afternoon

- Pitch production: from study to experiment
- Glass production and its experimentation
- Visit of the 'Domaine Pierre Gaillard', where ancient methods of winemaking are still partially practiced, including the use of ceramic jars

Friday, May 10th, 2019

Morning

Experimental activities (split groups):

- Glass beads production
- Pitch production

Afternoon

Experimental activities (split groups):

- Dye production
- Pitch production

Conclusion: the experimenter being observed: feedback on archaeological experimentation

Saturday, May 11th, 2019: Departure of participants

List of speakers

Gallo-Roman Museum of Saint-Romain-en-Gal – Vienne

Émilie Alonso
Laurence Brissaud
Christophe Caillaud
Gaëlle Desgouttes
Stéphane Kielbasa
Jean-Luc Prisset
Laure Vergonzanne

Scholars

Catherine Allamel-Raffin (Strasbourg)
Enora Le Quéré (Rouen)
Nicolas Monteix (Rouen)

Guest speakers

Pierre-Alain Capt
Armand Desbat
Valérie Merle
Artisans d'Histoire

Conditions for application

The expenses of traveling to Saint-Romain-en-Gal must be paid by the participants (or their affiliated institutions).

Applications should be sent by **March 1st, 2019** to the following e-mail address: [*secrant@efrome.it*](mailto:secrant@efrome.it).

They must include:

- the registration form (above)
- a short *curriculum vitae* (1-2 pages)
- an abstract of the participant's research project (1-2 pages)
- a cover letter
- a reference letter signed by a scholar or professor.