Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The preservation of color in objects recovered from archaeological and historical sites is a challenging topic, and even more complex is the study of color when objects cannot be removed from their original location.

The identification and characterization of pigments and dyes does not only inform on the manufacture of an object but also opens to historical and art historical interpretation about trading of materials, provenance and dating, reconstruction of original appearance, and ultimately preservation, conservation, and display strategies. The information obtained on these materials opens a window onto the people who used them and therefore sheds light on societal, economic, and cultural changes in past civilizations.

Scientific research has seen enormous progress in the past decades with the development and optimization of analytical strategies to investigate color, spanning from in situ non-invasive approaches to molecular characterization of micro-samples.

This Special Issue aims to address technical and fundamental research devoted to the study of pigments and dyes in archaeological and historical objects from a broad range of points of view.