

# Mucem



**Archives**  
nationales d'outre-mer



## **International Summer School “Understanding Mediterranean Collections” Aix-en-Provence/Marseille, July 8-23, 2019**

The international summer school “Understanding Mediterranean Collections” organised by the Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme (USR 3125, Aix Marseille Université, CNRS) aims to take a multidisciplinary, international approach to training participants in questions relating to the scientific exploitation and valorisation of Mediterranean collections *as collections*.

Mediterranean studies in the SSH are based on collections of sources (archives, printed materials, manuscripts, iconography, objects, archaeological remains, sound and audiovisual documents) preserved in libraries, archival repositories, museums and digital databases. Researchers very often use these collections without taking into account their collection status. These collections can be the result of processes of gathering, sorting, conserving, transmitting, dispersing, partial or total destruction and virtual or material reconstitution. Their history can be ancient, stratified, poorly documented or the result of recent initiatives, charged with intense political and cultural issues. Their archival processing may also have transformed them, especially when they have been digitised and made more accessible, visual and usable.

This summer school thus proposes, in the words of Carlo Ossola, to approach the collections as “‘points of entry’ that a society adopts to examine its present’. They should be interpreted not as an assortment of items that are examinable by a researcher but as collections that present a series of hypotheses about societies whose traces of the past, present and sometimes even future they bring together. How should the history of collections be written down when approached as ‘collections of questions’? How has their creation accompanied the construction and evolution of the Mediterranean as a scientific object? How can we exploit collections that have been created according to some idiosyncratic logic while also updating the questions that can be developed from them? How should the history of collections that have disappeared or been dispersed or

destroyed by disasters and conflicts be documented? Can we adopt the same scholarly practices used in consultations of analogue media when we research and use digital collections? How do we build, exploit and transmit new documentary corpuses?

The aim of this summer school is to tackle scientific and professional questions head on in order to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between the research community and the heritage conservation and valorisation community.

The object of the studies (the collection) has been conceived in a very broad way so as to include in the reflection all types of sources usually mobilised in the SSH, including the natural history collections examined by environmental history and ethnobotany researchers. The reflection's unity lies in its Mediterranean context, which will allow us to compare formerly stabilised collections (resulting from the scholarly practices and cultural policies of 19th century nation states) with more recent collections, some of which have come from civil societies located along the southern Mediterranean coastline. It will also give us the opportunity to highlight the dynamics of circulation and exchange between the Mediterranean's northern and southern coastlines (from the collection of colonial legacies to the different heritage approaches) and to examine the issues now facing all these collections in a context of developing digital technologies.

The reflexive presentations of collections, high-level international scientific lectures, interdisciplinary methodological workshops and practical projects all allow participants to access and contribute to the epistemological debate and to try to understand the means societies have adopted to examine their past and their present.

Disciplines : history – archaeology – ethnology – archivology – digital humanities

#### Organising committee :

Emmanuelle Chapron (professor, historian, assistant director of MMSH, project leader), Isabelle Dion (chief curator of heritage, ANOM), Véronique Ginouvès (senior research engineer, head of the MMSH sound archives), Cyril Isnart (CNRS researcher, ethnologist), Julien Loiseau (professor, historian) and Aude Fanlo (research and training project manager, MuCEM).

Scientific committee : Sophie Bouffier (professor, ancient history, director of MMSH), Brigitte Marin (professor, early modern history), Catherine Virlouvè (director of the École Française de Rome), Pietro Clemente (professor, ethnology, Università degli Studi di Siena, Italy) and Kmar Bendana (professor, contemporary history, Université de la Manouba, Tunisia).

#### Summer school schedule

The school will last two and a half weeks (17 days) and will be organised around visits, lectures and practical workshops, which will lead to a final presentation session by the participants. It will be structured according to three thematic areas, each examining the collections' relationships to time:

- 1) Thinking about the collection's past. This thematic area proposes to make a set of tools, methods and references available to participants in order to situate the history of ancient collections within current scientific issues (the history of collecting, of cultural policies, of heritagisation and of the tradition of Antiquity).
- 2) Collections in the turmoil of the present. This thematic area proposes a series of analyses on what disasters and wars do to collections. It addresses the questions of heritage destruction and predation and looks at collection reconstitution techniques (material and virtual).
- 3) Collections in the future. This thematic area will examine how to build and transmit new documentary corpuses today that will allow us to think about the history of Mediterranean societies. Case studies will also shed light on the updating of forms of valorising legacy collections in the context of developing digital technologies and transformations in cultural practices.

Each thematic area will be developed in three ways:

- 1) through visits to collections in Aix and Marseille, which will take the combined form of guided lectures and on-site training and will be led by teams comprising one researcher and one professional. The sites have been chosen because of the exceptionality of their collections and because they fit with the summer school's themes.
- 2) through lectures featuring international researchers and professionals in the field, who will pair up during the morning visits and enrich the reflection by presenting and analysing situations relating to other European countries as well as to countries on the southern Mediterranean coastline.
- 3) through practical workshops, which have been structured to take place over the two weeks of the summer school and which will lead to individual and collective presentations. Supervised by both researchers and professionals, these workshops will be devoted to training participants in the different methods of writing used in the analysis and valorisation of a collection, including writing scientific articles, notes in an online research notebook, collection catalogues and on-site presentations of the filmed document preservation and sound editing processes. These workshops will also allow participants to extend the training they receive through the completion of a personal project, which will be presented during a final public presentation session (group or individual) in the last two days. This closing session will be delivered in either French or English in a format that will be specified at the beginning of the summer school.

The summer school will take place in the premises of the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme (Aix-en-Provence). It will be held in French and English. The visits will mainly be conducted in French, the workshops will be bilingual and the lectures will be in either French or English depending on the speakers' preferences.

#### Target audience

The target audience is early-career researchers (Master's, Doctoral), scholars and professionals wishing to learn about the issues presented by the summer school. At least 50% of the

participants will be international. A total of 50 participants is envisaged, half of whom will be PhD students. The summer school is designed to encourage exchanges for the benefit of all participants and requires no prior specific technical knowledge. Candidate selection will be based on a detailed CV (written in English) and a presentation (15,000 characters) in English showing the link between the candidate's research project/professional activity and the issues presented by the summer school. Doctoral students will include a letter of support from their thesis supervisor.

Previsional schedule

Week 1

		Morning (9:00-12:00)	Afternoon (14:00-16:00)	Afternoon (16:30-18:30)
08/07		Welcome. Inaugural lecture, Jean-Yves Empereur (CNRS)	Visit/on-site training: MuCEM: <i>The MuCEM's conservation and resource center, a gateway to the history of collections</i> (É. Girard, MuCEM)	
09/07	<i>Thinking about the collection's past</i>	Visit/on-site training: ANOM, led by I. Dion and F. Bordeles (archivists, ANOM) and N. Michel (prof. of history, AMU)	Workshop: <i>History of archives, history factory</i> , led by O. Adankpo, B. Marceau, C. Santus, (former) members of the École Française de Rome	Lecture : Vincent Lemire (historien, Université Paris-Est/Marne-la-Vallée) or Yann Potin, <i>Open Jerusalem Archives</i>
10/07	<i>Collections in the turmoil of the present</i>	Lecture : Rania Stephan <i>Archiving the war in Lebanon</i> and Katia Bellan, <i>Marseille filmed: images, history, memories, 1945</i>	Workshop: <i>Using archives in documentaries</i> , led by R. Stephan	Lecture : Omniya Abdel Barr (architect, Victoria and Albert Museum, Londres), <i>Islamic heritage: thefts and damage</i>
11/07		Visit/on-site training: Musée d'Histoire de Marseille, led by I. Pernin (AMU)	Workshop : <i>Presenting a collection of archaeological photographs to the public</i> , led by Bruno Baudoin (CCJ), Jean-Christophe Peyssard (IFPO)	Lecture : <i>Archaeology archives: an alternative to excavation ?</i> Xavier Rodier (IR CNRS)

12/07	<i>Collections in the future</i>	Lecture: Christian Bromberger, <i>Ethnographic collections in the Mediterranean: for an anthropological reread of museographical collections</i>	On-site training: <i>Which collections for research data</i> , led by V. Ginouvès	Lecture : David Zeitlyn (Oxford University) : <i>'Taking care of the future': ethnologists' archives, new collections for historians</i>
13/07		Supported individual work		Lecture: Maria de Lurdes Rosa (historien, Lisbon), <i>Should archival collections be rebuilt?</i>
14/07	Free day			

Week 2

		Morning (9:00-12:00)	Afternoon (14:00-16:00)	Afternoon (16:30-18:30)
15/07	<i>Collections in the future</i>	Visit/on-site training: Ina-Méditerranée (Marseille)	Workshop: <i>What legal and ethical questions should we ask when using archives?</i> , led by P. Mouron and I. Gras	Lecture: L. Nordiguian, historian, <i>The photographic library at the Université Saint-Joseph (Beirut)</i>
16/07		Visit/on-site training: Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de Marseille (D. Faget, historian)	Workshop : the scientific note, by D. Cavallo	Lecture : A. Ben-David, <i>Internet archives</i>
17/07		Excursion: visit to the Musée de la Romanité (Nîmes)		
18/07	<i>Thinking about the collection's past</i>	Lecture: G. Vivar-Lombarte, <i>Archaeological archives and museum collections</i>	On-site training : <i>The MuCEM's "enquêtes collectes" collections.</i>	
19/07	<i>Collections in the turmoil of the present</i>	Lecture: <i>Tunisia and its archives</i> , by A. Ghrab and H. Jallab	Workshop : <i>Presenting a collection to the public</i> : E. Cestor and F. Tiran (MuCEM).	Lecture : <i>the tunisian revolution's digital archive</i> (MuCEM)
20/07		Excursion : Museon Arlaten and Musée de l'Arles antique		

21/07		Free day	
22/07		Individual work	Presentation of individual and group projects to the public and the summer school's scientific committee
23/07	Presentation of individual and group projects to the public and the summer school's scientific committee (open to the public)		Closing lecture : Christian Jacob (to be confirmed)