

New deadline : 3 February 2025

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

SALT HERITAGE OF MALTA 2025

Training School - Atelier Doctoral

April 7-11th 2025

The **Salt Heritage of Malta 2025** doctoral workshop invites PhD students in archaeology, heritage studies, and related disciplines to join an immersive training program dedicated to the study and preservation of Malta's salt heritage. This week-long workshop, held in collaboration with the University of Malta, will bring together experts and students for a unique opportunity to explore the historical, cultural, and scientific aspects of salt production and use in Malta.

Research Context of the Salt Heritage of Malta Workshop

The study of salt, including research on salt pans, trade skills, exploitation methods, and commerce, has been of great interest to researchers across all historical periods. Salt, a resource used since prehistoric times, remains vital today. Historically, studies relied on accessible sources like literary records (texts and epigraphy) for ancient periods, and archival or cartographic data for later times. Since the 2000s, discoveries of salt-boiling workshops on the Atlantic coast and ancient salt pans in the Mediterranean and Atlantic regions have revitalized research, focusing on production methods and practices over time. More recently, advancements in spatial analysis, organic chemistry, and geomorphology have further expanded research possibilities, providing new insights into this resource.

This doctoral workshop aims to foster collaboration between specialists from diverse disciplines while training doctoral candidates and early-career researchers studying salt. The goal is to equip them with skills to analyze data effectively, develop tailored research protocols, and conduct high-level studies.

Malta was chosen for its significant salt heritage, including two major ancient and medieval salt pans (Xwejini and Gozo) that have yet to be studied interdisciplinarily. The workshop will include theoretical training by international experts, presentations by participants on their research, and practical fieldwork such as archival research, drone photography, field surveys, and interviews with salt industry professionals. The program is open to doctoral students of all nationalities working on salt-related topics, particularly in the Mediterranean context.

About the Workshop

Participants will engage in a blend of seminars, field visits, and practical training sessions aimed at developing essential skills for cultural heritage documentation and analysis. The program will cover:

- **Historical Perspectives on Salt Heritage:** Lectures on the role of salt in Early Modern Malta and saltpan research in Mediterranean Antiquity.
- **Methodological Training:** Hands-on exercises in drawing, GIS documentation, photogrammetry, drone operation, and the application of artificial intelligence for photogrammetry.
- **Documentation and Fieldwork:** Site visits to saltpans, practical documentation exercises, and the use of spatial imagery to support heritage preservation efforts.
- **Scientific Insights:** Introduction to the geochemistry of salt and its applications in archaeological research, including Malta's geomorphology and the analysis of salt-related industries such as fish-salting and leather tanning.

Program Highlights:

- **Site Visits and Fieldwork:** Gain first-hand experience in documenting Malta's salt heritage through fieldwork at local saltpans and related historical sites.
- **Methodology Workshops:** Sessions led by leading specialists in photogrammetry, geochemistry, and spatial analysis, including a guest speaker from the National Space Center (CNES) on the use of spatial imagery in heritage work.
- **Student Presentations and Peer Feedback:** Present your research and receive feedback from peers and mentors.
- **Networking and Collaboration Opportunities:** Connect with experts and fellow doctoral students interested in heritage preservation, archaeology, and digital documentation.

Logistics and Accommodations:

The workshop will provide accommodations for students in Malta, covering five days of the training program. The core team, including the organizers and specialized assistants, will provide continuous guidance and supervision. The program will also feature a public evening lecture to enrich the training experience.

Application Details:

During the workshop, doctoral students will be asked to present their research, focusing on methodological and technical aspects. The languages of the doctoral workshop are **English, French and Italian**. The application file will consist of two documents to be attached directly to the online form https://candidatures.efrome.it/patrimoine_du_sel_en_mediterranee_le_cas_de_malte before **15 January 2025** in pdf format:

- Letters' section (one pdf only):
 - A personal statement outlining the expectations of this workshop (1 page max.)
- CV section (one pdf only):
 - A curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)
 - A summary of the thesis project (1 - 2 pages max.)

Candidates selected for the workshop will be notified by 30 January 2025 and will be required to attend all sessions. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered.



Organisers:

- K. Schörle, Centre Camille Jullian, CNRS, Aix-Marseille University
T. Gambin, Department of Classics and Archaeology, University of Malta
E. Botte, Centre Camille Jullian, CNRS, Aix-Marseille University



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