

Thematic Session 09

Clay minerals, deposits and cultural heritage

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The multiple and selective use of clay minerals and deposits by humans remain one of the most intriguing and fruitful research topics in the field of Cultural Heritage Studies. Since tens of millennia prospecting, processing, and utilization of clayey raw materials constitute a particular relation of people and landscape.

This session invites contributions from diverse fields such as archaeological sciences, geology, soil science, geochemistry, petrography, mineralogy and crystallography. We aim to address a variety of topics such as the selection and use of suitable clay minerals for diverse purposes (including apart from pyrotechnical fabrication of ceramics also application of therapeutical and cosmetic clays), the experimental investigation of the transformations occurring to clay minerals upon heating, the localization and mapping of clay deposits assumedly exploited by the ancient artisans, and the trade of raw clays and their technological treatments. Scope is to investigate traditional knowledge about clays and their utilization, potentially rediscovering innovative applications.

Keywords: Clay minerals, Cultural heritage, Clay deposits, Clay use & treatment, Clay minerals, Modifications.

Potential Journal: Clays and Clay Minerals.

