

Conference

12-13 Dec. 2025
UCD Humanities
Institute

CO-ORGANISED BY KOMAIT ABDALLAH (AOROC-CNRS, PARIS) AND SEAN LEATHERBURY (UCD SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY AND CULTURAL POLICY)

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New Approaches to Ancient Floor Mosaics

Overview

Mosaics, functional works of art made of stone and glass, decorated the homes of the wealthy, public buildings, tombs, and places of worship all around the ancient Mediterranean. These works are key pieces of evidence in reconstructing the lives, tastes, and values of ancient peoples in times of cultural, social, political, and religious transition. Gathering together archaeologists and art historians who work on the mosaics of the Hellenistic, Roman, and Late Antique Mediterranean, this conference explores new approaches to mosaic floors.

Speakers include

Komait Abdallah (Paris); Karen Britt (Northwest Missouri State); Prolet Decheva (Dublin); Nathan Dennis (San Francisco); Kutalmis Gorkay (Oxford); Ayman Hassouna (Gaza/Dublin); Nada Helou (Beirut); Amina-Aïcha Malek (Paris); Eric Morvillez (Avignon); Hatice Pamir (Antakya); Houmam Saad (Paris/Damascus); Mustafa Şahin (Bursa); Will Wootton (London).

REGISTRATION
IN-PERSON



REGISTRATION
ONLINE



Conference Schedule

Friday, 12 December

9:00–9:30 Coffee/Tea

9:30 **Welcome Remarks** (Sean Leatherbury, Komait Abdallah)

9:45–11:30 **Session 1: Allegory, Symbolism, and Local Contexts**

- Kutalmış Görkay (Oxford): *Allegory and Symbolism: The Mosaics, Patrons, and Inhabitants of the Houses of Zeugma*
- Komait Abdallah (AOROC-CNRS Paris) and Houmam Saad (École Pratique des Hautes Études – PSL): *Studying Mosaics in their Temporal and Geographical Context: Case Study: The Recently Discovered Al-Rastan Mosaic in Syria*
- Prolet Decheva (Dublin): *An Allegory of Luxury and Abundance: The Mosaics of the Episkopeion at Olympos*

11:30–11:45 Coffee

11:45–1:00 **Session 2: Iconographic Approaches**

- Amina-Aïcha Malek (CNRS Paris): *Dionysos, or the Contradiction United by the Vine in Ancient North Africa*
- Nada Helou (Université Libanaise, Beirut): *The Newly Discovered Mosaic Pavements in Beirut*

1:00–2:00 Lunch

2:45–4:00 **Session 3: Making and Meaning**

- Will Wootton (King's College London): *'Making It': Exploring Roman Mosaic Techniques through Practical Experiments*
- Karen Britt (Northwest Missouri State University): *All that Glitters is Not Gold: Color and Light in the Huqoq Synagogue Mosaics*

4:00–4:15 Coffee

4:15–6:00 **Session 4: Mosaics and Social Class**

- Nathan Dennis (University of San Francisco): *In Loo of Luxury: Class and Status in the Mosaic Decoration of Roman Toilets*
- Sean Leatherbury (UCD): *Late Antique Mosaics, Inscriptions, and Donors Revisited: From Individuals to Communities*
- Ayman Hassouna (Islamic University of Gaza/UCD): *The Mosaic School in Gaza and Its Illustration of the Civilized Life of Gaza Society*

Saturday, 13 December

9:30–10:00 Coffee

10:00–11:45 **Session 5: New Approaches to the Mosaics of Turkey**

- Eric Morvillez (Avignon): *Contextualizing the Mosaics of the House of Iphigenia in Antioch: The Contribution of Excavation Archives*
- Hatice Pamir (Mustafa Kemal University, Antakya): *Living in the Houses of the Wealthy: New Mosaic Discoveries in Antakya (Antioch on the Orontes) and Harbiye (Daphne)*
- Mustafa Şahin (Bursa Uludağ): *Sinope Mosaics: A Bridge in the Transfer of Mosaic Art to the West*
[Zoom]

11:45–12:00 **Closing Remarks**

12:00–1:00 Lunch