**The « Beauté(s) » Chair launches its dissertation prize.**

*To reward and highlight the best doctoral works on the concept of beauty, regardless of the background or the scientific field, PSL calls for applications for the 2019 PSL-L’Oréal dissertation prize. Awards will be announced at the end of September 2019, following the inaugural conference of the Chair*

**Chair presentation**

What defines beauty? Plural, elusive and yet omnipresent, beauty carries notions of aesthetics and truth. It holds a universality quest: the human pursuit of beauty spans every civilization. Beyond its infinitely diverse manifestations, can we reveal invariants among conceptions of beauty? Doesn’t beauty live through science?

Confronted to such issues, neurosciences, sociology, history and anthropology, philosophy, mathematics, physics, all sciences and arts may find answers; but by joining forces, these many disciplines will offer new answers that none of them could reach on their own.

To do so, a new chair financed by L’Oréal will provide an ecosystem dedicated to interdisciplinary studies related to the notion of beauty. For four years, a seminar and a lecture series will rally and interbreed sciences with artistic creation in order to grasp every aspect of the complex but crucial notion of beauty. The Chair will be directed by a scientific steering committee and by a pool of young researchers, after recruiting two doctoral students, two post-doctoral, fellows and a scientific coordinator.

Each year, a ceremony dedicated to researches on beauty will be held to award the PSL-L’Oréal dissertation prize.

The Chair will offer a comprehensive environment for studies and research and will disseminate its discoveries to students, then to a larger audience, through seminars, lectures, internet broadcasting, various multimedia contents and a final publication.

### General conditions of the 2019 call

Eligible dissertations must have been defended between January 2016 and March 2019 in a French or foreign higher education institution. They can be written in French or in English. The scientific steering committee of the Chair is composed of Rémi Carminati (physicist), François Jouen (neuroscientist), Nadeije Laneyrie-Dagen (art historian), Jacques Leclaire (physicist and biochemist), Alexandra Palt (Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer & Executive Vice-President of the L’Oréal Foundation), Kaouther Adimi (program supervisor for the L’Oréal Foundation, writer), Anne-Marie Turcan-Verkerk (text historian), Frédéric Worms (philosopher). The committee may call on external experts on the requested topics. The jury will pay a close attention to interdisciplinarity and to the suitability of the research for the scientific agenda of the Chair. The award winner will be announced following the inaugural conference of the Chair at the end of September 2019.

**Prize**

The award-wining doctoral dissertation will be granted 5.000 euros.

The laureate will have to include a summary of their dissertation to be published on the Chair’s website and its communication channels, as well as those from L’Oréal. She/he will be invited to present his/her current research as part of the work of the Chair, and in one or several PSL institutions as well.

**Schedule**

* Deadline for applications: May, 31, 2019; send to: [chaire.beautes.pdt@psl.eu](mailto:chaire.beautes.pdt@psl.eu)
* The award ceremony will take place at the end of September 2019, following the inaugural conference of the Chair; the laureate is required to attend.

**Applications**

The application form has to be sent only by e-mail to the following address [chaire.beautes.pdt@psl.eu](mailto:chaire.beautes.pdt@psl.eu) and must include:

* The application form - to download;
* The two dissertation pre-reports and the defense report;
* Two detailed letters of reference (one from the research adviser);
* A resumé, in French or English (maximum 2 pages);
* The dissertation itself.

To send your dissertation, e-mail is strongly recommended. In case the file is too heavy for regular sending, applicants may upload it on an online folder. During the upload, please name the folder including your dissertation with your name and the title of the dissertation and notify us by email once you have completed the upload.

Any package either missing information or submitted after May 31, 2019, will not be accepted.