



# BEAUTÉ (S)

LA CHAIRE

# THE CHAIR

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*The Research Chair on Beauty Studies is a locus of research and education devoted to an interdisciplinary examination of the concept of beauty.*

[Website](#)

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## Activities

2020 - 2022

### *Working Lectures*

Working lectures are open to the general public and showcase researchers, artists and other practitioners interested in talking about their examination of a contemporary topic. Offering a unique format, these lectures are designed to highlight research in progress rather than completed work.

### *Research*

The Chair in Beauty Studies brings together a network of researchers from a wide range of disciplines with a focus on the concept of beauty. It regularly issues calls for applications as a means of providing financial support for doctoral and post-doctoral contracts and transdisciplinary research projects. Beginning in September 2020, all interested young doctoral or post-doctoral researchers at PSL will be invited to participate in a seminar to be held every other month as part of a forward-looking, multidisciplinary examination of the concept of beauty.

### *Creation and coordination of a scientific network*

The scientific committee for the Chair in Beauty Studies is made up of scholars from a wide array of disciplines. It helps to produce scientific resources to further the overall research led by the Chair. A list of the scientific committee's members can be found at the website.

## Scientific focus

*Future forms of beauty, for forward-looking research into beauty.*

For too long, we have tended to examine the issue of beauty from the perspective of hindsight: its long history has rendered the concept somewhat daunting and backward-looking. Today, beauty has become a social value and no longer seems as radical as in the past: defined by Kant as a non-conceptual universality, unique and subjective, beauty could be convulsive, deadly or divine. Twentieth-century art likewise shifted gradually away from the notion of beauty, opting instead for avant-gardism, artistic commitment or playing off artistic tradition.

We now wish to revisit the idea of beauty, and are devoting a research chair to the topic, because we believe there are invariants of beauty in science that can be shared among researchers in every discipline, and that beauty is a touchstone and an essential factor in our relationship with the world. With that in mind, the chair examines beauty as a heuristic, forward-looking concept. That means affirming that beauty has a future, and that the forms it takes in the future will need to be discovered, refined and imagined with unflinching inventiveness (new technologies in beauty, bio-art, the ecology of beauty, etc.); but also that the future, and our thinking about the future, needs beauty, to serve as a compass and help us stay in contact with what is truly human about us.

## Management

*The Research Chair on Beauty Studies is led by a scientific steering committee.*

*Current holder*

**Clélia Zernik**, professor of aesthetics [Beaux-Arts de Paris - PSL]

*Academic members*

Rémi Carminati, physicist [ESPCI - PSL]

Claudine Cohen, philosopher and historian of science [EHESS & EPHE - PSL]

François Jouen, neuroscientist [EPHE - PSL]

Anne-Marie Turcan-Verkerk, philologist [EPHE - PSL]

Frédéric Worms, philosopher [ENS - PSL]

*L'Oréal sponsorship representatives*

Kaouther Adimi, author, program supervisor for the L'Oréal Foundation.

Alexandra Palt, executive vice president of the L'Oréal Foundation.

*Scientific coordination*

Justin Jaricot [Université PSL]



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