

DIM PAMIR programme TraceRockArt visiting professorship



This visiting professorship invites Professor Rachel Popelka-Filcoff (**Rock Art Australia Minderoo Chair in Archaeological Science**, University of Melbourne, Australia) to the Paris- Ile-de-France region. Key aims of the project include collaboration between France and Australia invited lectures by Professor Rachel Popelka-Filcoff at several venues, joint experiments at the Nanoscopium (Synchrotron SOLEIL), and a joint workshop held on the state-of-the art non-invasive analysis techniques for the study of vulnerable trace rock art pigments at C2RMF.

This crucial collaboration of Ina Reiche, Lab-BC, Katharina Müller, IPANEMA as well as Sebastian Schöder and Kadda Medjoubi, SOLEIL synchrotron, on the French side with Rachel Popelka-Filcoff is the first to examine the important role that these traces can inform on scientific analysis, cultural interpretation, and shared cultural expression of rock art.

Further partners are José Tapia, CNR Catania, Italy, Pablo Arias, University of Santander, Spain and Emilie Chalmin, University Savoie Mont Blanc Chambéry.

Rock art is a universal form of human expression worldwide, and one of the earliest forms of symbolic behaviour going back into deep human history for France and Australia. Analysis of rock art is essential to understand our collective history and identifying key research questions for the future, given the vulnerability of pigments to climate change, human effects and catastrophic events.

In many archaeological rock art sites, only traces of pigments remain, making these areas even more vulnerable to complete obliteration and possible total loss of cultural connection. Analytical approaches need to be sensitive, rugged, and portable or only require very small sampling volumes to understand the complex layers of pigment and binders in rock art pigments, often in remote locations. This project will promote insights into collaborative, multinational analytical approaches to rock art.

Several conferences are scheduled during his stay in France:

- on July 7, 2025, at C2RMF
- on July 11, 2025, at the Quai Branly Museum
- on July 21, 2025, at the SOLEIL synchrotron.

[Program for the scientific workshop organized on July 7 at C2RMF](#)

[Link to the funded project](#)