

GLASGOW COLOUR STUDIES GROUP

Notes following the Eleventh Meeting, 24th March 2010

The eleventh meeting of the GCSG took place in Room 1, Dept of English Language, University of Glasgow. Thanks are due to Christian Kay who both acted as master of ceremonies, and also organized the refreshments.

Our speaker was Dr Natalie Uomini, a postdoctoral researcher in the British Academy's Centenary Research Project, 'Lucy to Language: the Archaeology of the Social Brain'. Dr Uomini is based in the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool.

Natalie Uomini spoke on 'The Use of Colour in Prehistory: Materials and Symbols'

"Colour has been important to mankind for at least 90,000 years. The talk describes some of the prehistoric uses of colour, the tools and materials used, and some of the possible symbolism related to colour".

Dr Uomini presented examples of possible and certain colour interest among prehistoric humans, ranging from a jasperite pebble transported into a cave in South Africa some three million years ago, through the widespread finds of ochre such as the engraved ochre pieces of Blombos Cave, South Africa of about 70,000 years ago, to the beginnings of cave paintings about 30,000 years ago. The different styles of prehistoric art were presented, and the possible purposes of ochre use, both practical and symbolic. Many in the audience were surprised to learn that a working ochre mine still exists in Britain, at Clearwell Caves, Gloucestershire, and Dr Uomini passed around a sample of their basic product.

News

- Work is about to start on drawing up a programme for the academic year 2010-11. Offers of papers, or seminars, or any form of session are invited from our membership. Please also feel free to suggest speakers you would like to hear, or subjects you would like the Group to hear about. Pass your ideas and suggestions to Carole Biggam at c.p.biggam@btinternet.com
- Don't forget to let Carole Biggam know about your colour-related publications.
- Please also announce any colour-related conferences you may hear about on the discussion list at ColourStudies@jiscmail.ac.uk or, alternatively, let Carole Biggam know.