



# Iron-based geomaterials in archaeological and artistic contexts

Prof. Giovanni Cavallo

**When:** Wednesday, November 25, 2015  
h. 12

**Where:** University of Rome "Sapienza", Department of Earth Sciences  
Lucchesi Classroom

**What:** Iron-based geomaterials have been used since Prehistory for several purposes both utilitarian and symbolic even if the most recognized application was in the field of the decorative arts as painting material. Their fortune was tied to the easy availability in different geological environments, to the great stability and compatibility with organic and inorganic binders and pigments, to simple processing methods. In terms of chemical and mineralogical composition they are oxides and silicates often accompanied by clay minerals and other non-colouring mineral phases whose nature depends on the formation mechanisms. Italy played in the past an important role in the exploitation and processing of yellow, red and green Fe-rich geomaterials which were available in Sardinia, Tuscany, Piedmont and Veneto. The procurement area in the Western sector of the Lessini Mountains around the city of Verona will be presented focusing the lecture on the scientific strategy used to highlight the mineralogical and elemental composition, the textural characteristics and the implications in provenance studies.

**Who:**



Prof. **Giovanni Cavallo** is a geologist, teacher and researcher at the Institute of Materials and Construction of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI).