

## Surface and Interface Analysis of Cultural Heritage

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Surface and interface analysis is fundamental in cultural heritage (CH) to understand the mechanisms that underlie alterations and consequently to find the most suitable treatment to avoid them. This last issue is particularly relevant in CH because surface treatments are commonly applied to different kinds of artefacts and materials to protect, to restore, to preserve, to recover the aesthetic characteristics. Several commercial formulations are used for these aims, but their interactions with the original materials of artworks and their possible modifications over time have not often been investigated. This could have undesirable effects on surfaces, such as chemical alterations and colour modifications, that clearly need to be avoided. So, it is fundamental in CH to know the surface and interface properties of the materials that constitute artworks both untreated and treated with different kinds of finishes.

The aim of this Special Issue is to present the latest developments in the field through a combination of research papers, communications, and review articles from leading groups around the world that work on surface and interface properties of CH materials and artworks.



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## Message from the Editorial Board

Now more than ever, research is called for to produce technologies and improve knowledge to solve the major challenges faced by our society. The development of new materials and devices for (without the ambition to be exhaustive) energy, health and food technology, together with the need for establishing processes that reduce the impact on critical resources and the environment, is indeed at the center of most contemporary research. Surface science and engineering play a key role in this regard. Refining surfaces and their modifications provides new materials, architectures and processes with a huge potential to aid most societal challenges. *Coatings* is a well-established, peer-reviewed, online journal that focuses on the dissemination of publications in the field of surface science and engineering. *Coatings* publishes original research articles that report cutting-edge results and review papers on the hottest topics.

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