

MOTIVATION LETTER

Caparica, December 16th, 2019

Subject: Proposal to integrate the COST Action *Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750)*

Dear Dr Antonio Urquizar-Herrera,
Dear Dr Alicia Miguélez,

My name is Susana Coentro and I am a researcher at VICARTE (“Glass and Ceramic for the Arts” – FCT-NOVA, Portugal). My research path has been focused on the study of ceramic tiles and, in particular, on the glaze technology inherited and developed during and after the Islamic presence in the Iberian Peninsula. I am writing to you to propose my integration in the COST Action *Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750)*.

I earned my PhD in Conservation and Restoration (Field of Theory, History and Techniques) in 2017 from NOVA University – Faculty of Sciences and Technology. My PhD work (FCT grant SFRH/BD/73007/2010) comprised a pioneering investigation on Hispano-Moresque tiles that earned the interest of both Portuguese and Spanish cultural institutions. Hispano-Moresque tiles are a perfect example of cultural and technological exchange by combining both Islamic and Christian traditions. Last July, I initiated a Junior Researcher contract to study the beginnings of tin-glazed ceramics in Portugal through a technological point of view.

Most of my work has been somehow connected to the Islamic technological legacy in the field of Technical Art History of ceramics, whether concerning glazes, pigments, raw materials, recipes, or processes of technological transfer. Therefore, I can contribute to the IS-LE COST Action by presenting and discussing my work with other researchers from different fields of knowledge. I would also like to propose my participation on the MOOC with a module on the history of tin-glazed ceramics and how they impacted the development of the Iberian Peninsula as an international ceramic production centre. I am part of the Organizing Committee for the AIHV Conference that will take place in Lisbon, which will be co-organized within the WG2 and have a panel dedicated to Islamic Glass – therefore, I believe my work would be fitted to integrate this working group. Of course, I would like to have your opinion on which WG is better suited for my research field. I send you my CV attached, and I would be glad to answer any questions regarding my candidacy to integrate the IS-LE COST Action.

With my best regards,

Susana Xavier Coentro