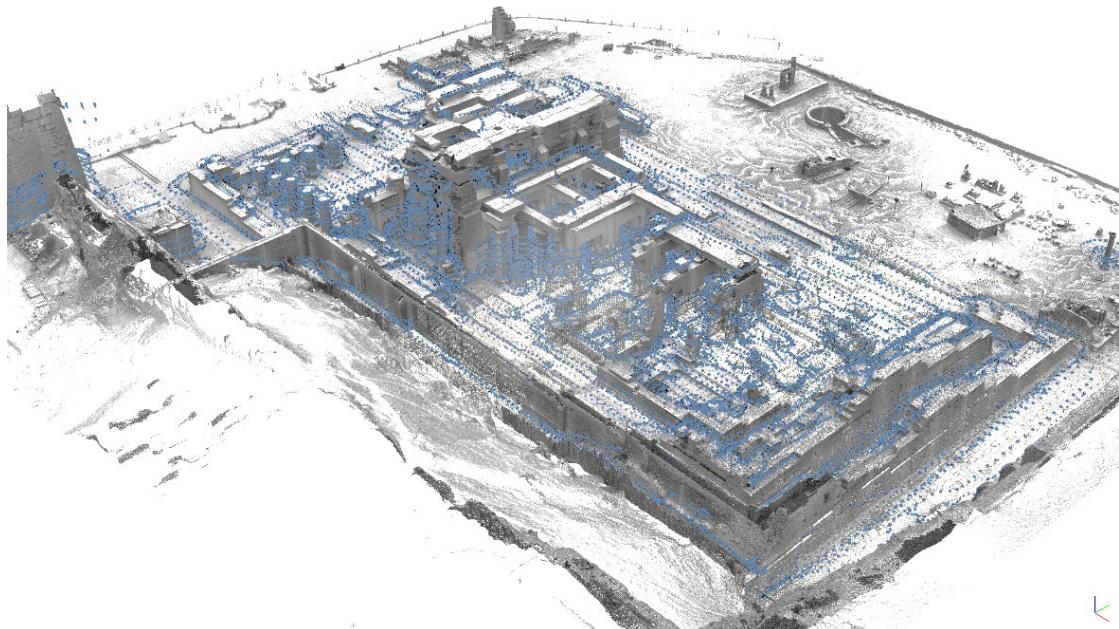DOCTORAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Digital Practices in Archaeology and Heritage: from Data Collection to Dissemination

French School of Rome | From Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 April 2026

Organization

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Presentation

The French School of Rome (EFR), in partnership with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), is organizing a doctoral workshop on digital practices applied to archaeology and heritage, exploring the entire workflow from data collection to the dissemination of results. The workshop will place particular emphasis on the conceptual and ethical challenges that run through these different stages. Special attention will be paid to data archiving and open science, in order to consider the long-term preservation and accessibility of 2D and 3D information. The workshop will also include critical reflection on the ecological and environmental dimensions of managing and storing digital data, as well as on the impact of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, on the processing and analysis of archaeological images. Finally, it will address the crucial issue of the credibility of digital images, highlighting the importance of good practices to ensure the reliability and integrity of the visual representations produced.

In a context in which digital technologies are profoundly transforming archaeological methods, this workshop renews the traditional approach by integrating critical reflection on the use of digital tools. It contributes to raising awareness among early-career researchers of the use of digital tools in the dissemination and promotion of archaeological heritage. In this context of the digital transition in the humanities, it is essential to combine the core requirements of archaeological research with the considered use of digital tools for the collection, analysis and sharing of data, both among researchers and with wider audiences. Sharing scientific knowledge with the public while maintaining disciplinary rigour is more crucial than ever to ensure the transmission of a high-quality intellectual heritage.

Workshop objectives

This workshop offers an overview of digital applications in archaeology and heritage, focusing on data collection, analysis and dissemination. It provides doctoral students with in-depth training covering the entire lifecycle of digital archaeological data, from field acquisition to scientific and heritage outreach.

Drawing on established methodologies and recent research, the workshop also addresses challenges related to data management, archiving and dissemination. The training aims to raise awareness among early-career researchers of digital tools, promote open science practices, and encourage the modernization of archaeological methods, while fostering interdisciplinary and international networks.

Combining lectures, hands-on demonstrations and site visits, the programme offers participants a balanced mix of theory and practice. The diversity of speakers, covering different periods and disciplines, will enrich exchanges between participants from both academic and non-academic backgrounds, including museums and archaeological parks.

Topics

- BIM and 3D software
- Historical models and digital reconstructions
- Databases and 3D GIS
- Data acquisition, storage and archiving
- Virtual and augmented reality applied to archaeology and heritage

Target audience

The workshop is aimed at doctoral students (or PhD holders up to two years after completion) in archaeology, art history, architecture/urban planning, heritage studies, digital humanities, urban geography or computer science, whose research focuses on the above topics.

Working languages

French, Italian and English.

Application procedures

Applicants must submit:

- A *Curriculum Vitae*
- A cover letter outlining their research topic and explaining the relevance of their participation in this workshop

The application file must be submitted **before January 31, 2026.** via the online form available at:

https://candidatures.efrome.it/pratiques_numeriques_appliquees_a_l_archeologie_et_au_patrimoine

For any information, please send an email to Stéphanie Mailleur (stephanie.mailleur@efrome.it) and Aurélie Terrier (aurelie.terrier@epfl.ch).

Candidates will be selected based on the quality of their project and the winners will be informed of the committee 's decision **no later than February 15, 2026**.

Accommodation conditions

Selected participants will be accommodated at the French School of Rome (Piazza Navona) for the duration of the workshop, and lunches will be provided.

Travel expenses to Rome, as well as breakfasts and dinners, must be covered by the participants or their institutions. Applicants are therefore encouraged to contact their doctoral school or research laboratory to obtain funding.