# The Power of Aesthetics

## An international and interdisciplinary Summer School

**Aug. 22 – 30, 2026**

**Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), Shanghai**

## Organizers:

- Neurocognitive Image Laboratory (**NIL**) & World Arthistory Institute (**WAI**) of Shanghai International Studies University (**SISU**), Shanghai, China
- Institute of Medical Psychology (**IMP**), Ludwig Maximilian University (**LMU**), Munich, Germany
- Federation of German Scientists (**VDW**, Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler), Berlin, Germany

**Language:** English

**Participants:** International and Chinese undergraduates, graduates, and postdocs.

**Benefits:** Free accommodation and meals are provided, no tuition fees. Participants of the Summer School may receive a certificate of attendance from the Institute of Medical Psychology (IMP), Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, Germany.

# Faculty and Lectures



**Prof. Ernst Pöppel,** SISU, LMU, Germany. Neuroaesthetics, Cognitive neuroscience



**Prof. Yan BAO,** SISU, PKU, China. Neuroaesthetics, Cognitive neuroscience



**Prof. Nikos Logothetis** ICPBR, Shanghai, China; MPI-BC, Tübingen, Germany. Brain science



**Prof. LaoZhu,** SISU, PKU, China. Cultural Heritage, Art History, Artist, Art historian



**Prof. Jacek Rogala,** University Warsaw, Poland Neuroinformatics, Neuroaesthetics



**Beata Bajno,** Visual Artist and Architect, Warsaw, Poland. Visual art, Architecture



**Dr. Gleb Vzorin,** Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia. Psychology, HMI, AI



**Prof. Helmut Leder,** Vienna University, Austria. Psychology, Empirical Aesthetics



**Prof. Jörg Fingerhut,** Humboldt University, Germany. Philosophy, Cognitive Science



**Dr. Maria Reinisch,** Managing director of VDW, Germany. Leadership, Ecology



**Prof. Shabnam Kadir,** University of Hertfordshire, UK. Computational Neuroscience



**Alexander Benz,** Lawyer, LMU, Germany. Medical Psychology, Neuroethics, Neuroaesthetics



**Prof. Elvira Barkhatova,** IKBFU, Kaliningrad, Russia. Linguistics, Neurolinguistics



**Prof. Yao LI,** SISU, Shanghai, China. Psychology, AI, Human Factors

## Title of the lectures, followed by discussions

**Ernst Pöppel:** Time Windows: How the Brain Makes Cognition Possible

**Yan Bao:** Appreciation of Visual Art: Anthropological Universals and Cultural Specifics

**Nikos Logothetis:** Delving into the Multiscale Organization of Brain Systems

**LaoZhu:** The ontology of Chinese Paintings

**Jacek Rogala:** Art Perception in Lab and Gallery: Who's Cheating Whom?

**Beata Bajno:** Laboratory of Presence - What Happens When We Interact with Different Forms of Light?

**Helmut Leder:** Empirical Aesthetics - History, Concepts, and Studies on "What is Beauty"

**Jörg Fingerhut:** Wonder and the Power of Art: How Aesthetic Emotions Transform Understanding?

**Maria Reinisch:** Bridging East and West: Rethinking Leadership for a Complex World

**Shabnam Kadir:** A Hidden "Golden Rule" of Abstract Art

**Alexander Benz:** Between Motivation and Manipulation: Nudge or Novel Manipulation?

**Elvira Barkhatova:** Fletz, Bummelzwock, and the Eye of the Beholder

**Gleb Vzorin:** From Thesis Art to Elegant Theories: Beauty in Everyday Scientific Work

**Yao LI:** Visual Rhythm in Time: How Temporal Structure Shapes Attention and Visual Search

# Recruiting!

**(Deadline: June.30th)**

Please send a **short Motivation Letter** and a **short CV** to: nil@shisu.edu.cn and cc to: baoyan@pku.edu.cn and Ernst.Poeppel@med.uni-muenchen.de

# Summer School Schedule

| | 8:00–9:00 | 9:00–10:30 | 10:30-11:00 | 11:00–12:30 | 12:45–15:00 | 15:00–16:30 | 16:30–18:30 | 19:00–20:30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aug 22 (Sat)** | Arrival and Hotel Check-in | | | | Registration | | | |
| **Aug 23 (Sun)** | Break fast | Orientation | | Lunch | Visit Campus | | Reception | |
| **Aug 24 (Mon)** | Break fast | Lecture: Ernst Pöppel | Coffee Break | Lecture: Yan BAO | Lunch | Lecture: Helmut Leder | Dinner | Student Presen-tations |
| **Aug 25 (Tue)** | Break fast | Lecture: LaoZhu | Coffee Break | Lecture: Beata Bajno | Lunch | Lecture: Jacek Rogala | Dinner | Student Presen-tations |
| **Aug 26 (Wed)** | Break fast | Lecture: Alexander Benz | Coffee Break | Lecture: Maria Reinisch | Lunch | Lecture: Shabnam Kadir | Dinner | Student Presen-tations |
| **Aug 27 (Thu)** | Break fast | Lecture: Elvira Barkhatova | Coffee Break | Lecture: Nikos Logothetis | Lunch | Lecture: Gleb Vzorin | Dinner | Group Work with Faculty |
| **Aug 28 (Fri)** | Break fast | Lecture: Jörg Fingerhut | Coffee Break | Lecture: Yao LI | Lunch | Group Work with Faculty | Dinner | Dinner and Cele-bration |
| **Aug 29 (Sat)** | Break fast | Presentation of group work | Coffee Break | Presentation of group work | Lunch | Free time | Dinner | Free time |
| **Aug 30 (Sun)** | Break fast | Departure | | | | | | |