

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ‘PROGRESS IN COLOUR STUDIES’
CONFERENCE SERIES AND OF THE GLASGOW COLOUR STUDIES
GROUP**

The first ‘Progress in Colour Studies’ conference was held in the University of Glasgow in 2004, organized by Dr Carole Biggam and Prof. Christian Kay of the Dept of English Language. The conference attracted speakers from many disciplines (for example, linguistics, psychology, physics, art, philosophy, archaeology and anthropology) and from many countries (Mexico, Italy, France, Portugal, Canada, the USA, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Australia, as well as the UK). The purpose of the conference was to present the latest research in various disciplines, expressing it in a way that scholars in other disciplines could understand. The multi-disciplinary nature of the conference was crucial, and proved to be highly successful. Encouraged by this success, a conference series was established, organized by a committee of English Language and Psychology members in the University of Glasgow. The 2008 conference was equally well-attended and valuable to scholars, and the 2012 conference is taking place from July 10-13.

The proceedings of PICS04 were published by the Dutch publisher, John Benjamins, in two volumes entitled *Progress in Colour Studies* (2006), edited by C. P. Biggam, C. J. Kay (University of Glasgow) and N. J. Pitchford (University of Nottingham). The PIC08 proceedings were also published by Benjamins under the title *New Directions in Colour Studies* (2011), edited by C. P. Biggam, C. A. Hough, C. J. Kay and D. R. Simmons (all University of Glasgow).

Between the first and second PICS conferences, in April 2007, a special interest group was set up in the University of Glasgow by Biggam, Hough, Kay and Simmons (since joined by W. Anderson). The group is called the Glasgow Colour Studies Group, and meetings are held three times a year at which invited speakers talk about their work in colour studies. The Group also acts as support for the PICS conferences. From small beginnings, the GCSG now has over 120 members from many academic departments in the University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University, the University of Strathclyde and the University of Edinburgh, various Glasgow museums, and the Glasgow Film Theatre. In addition, the Group includes members located further afield

who, nonetheless, wish to be involved. These members are based in London, Oxford, Liverpool, Newcastle, St Andrews, Ottawa (Canada), Nantes (France) and Cairo (Egypt). The GCSG meetings have considered the role of colour in a wide range of subjects, some of which are: linguistics, museum conservation, psychology, place- and personal-names, cartography, synaesthesia, film, colour measurement, astronomy, textile dyeing and more.

The PICS / GCSG committee is proud of the multi-disciplinary nature of our publications, conferences and meetings, and that the group has provided a forum for new collaborations, such as the Mexican contribution to Stephen Palmer's project on colour preferences at the University of California at Berkeley.