



# 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



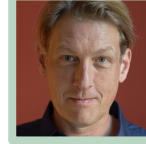
**Beata Bajno**, Visual Artist and Architect, Warsaw, Poland. Visual art, Architecture



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



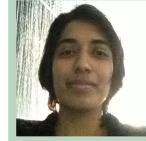
**Prof. Helmut Leder**, Vienna University, Austria. Psychology, Empirical Aesthetics



**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](mailto:nil@shisu.edu.cn) and cc to: [baoyan@pku.edu.cn](mailto:baoyan@pku.edu.cn) and [Ernst.Poeppel@med.uni-muenchen.de](mailto: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
<b>Aug 22 (Sat)</b>	Arrival and Hotel Check-in				Registration			
<b>Aug 23 (Sun)</b>	Break fast	Orientation		Lunch	Visit Campus		Reception	
<b>Aug 24 (Mon)</b>	Break fast	Lecture: Ernst Pöppel	Coffee Break	Lecture: Yan BAO	Lunch	Lecture: Helmut Leder	Dinner	Student Presentations
<b>Aug 25 (Tue)</b>	Break fast	Lecture: LaoZhu	Coffee Break	Lecture: Beata Bajno	Lunch	Lecture: Jacek Rogala	Dinner	Student Presentations
<b>Aug 26 (Wed)</b>	Break fast	Lecture: Alexander Benz	Coffee Break	Lecture: Maria Reinisch	Lunch	Lecture: Shabnam Kadir	Dinner	Student Presentations
<b>Aug 27 (Thu)</b>	Break fast	Lecture: Elvira Barkhatova	Coffee Break	Lecture: Nikos Logothetis	Lunch	Lecture: Gleb Vzorin	Dinner	Group Work with Faculty
<b>Aug 28 (Fri)</b>	Break fast	Lecture: Jörg Fingerhut	Coffee Break	Lecture: Yao LI	Lunch	Group Work with Faculty	Dinner	Dinner and Cele- bration
<b>Aug 29 (Sat)</b>	Break fast	Presentation of group work	Coffee Break	Presentation of group work	Lunch	Free time	Dinner	Free time
<b>Aug 30 (Sun)</b>	Break fast	Departure						