

9 October 2026, 10:00–12:00 & 14:00–16:00

Title: *EU Proposal Writing: The WenDang Initiative*

Objective: This workshop aims to introduce participants to key aspects of European research proposal development through the presentation of a real-life case study: the European Research Council project “WRITE – New Forms of Calligraphy in China: A Contemporary Culture Mirror” (GA No. 949645).

The first part of the day will introduce some of the fundamental elements of European research proposal design, with particular attention to the definition of scientific objectives, the development of a research proposal, and the relationship between research questions, methodology, interdisciplinarity, and expected outcomes. Drawing on the WRITE project as a case study, the session will present its background, scientific objectives, and interdisciplinary approach. The project focuses on the study of new forms of Chinese calligraphy in contemporary art and their relationship with the cultural, social, political, and economic transformations of contemporary China.

The second part will be centred around “WenDang – WRITE Digital Archive” (bando FARE, CINECA code: R20K7ZB983), the digital resource developed within the WRITE project to preserve, organise, describe, analyse, and provide access to research materials and results. The presentation of WenDang will demonstrate how the scientific objectives of a European research project can be translated into the creation of a digital archive, a semantic model, and other tools required for publishing and exploring research data.

The presentation of the WenDang project will be accompanied by a hands-on activity dedicated to Sampo-UI, a framework for building semantic portals. After a brief introduction to the tool, participants will be guided through an exercise in configuring a simple portal based on WRITE data. The aim is to understand the relationship between data structure, research requirements, and the design of methods for accessing, navigating, and exploring information.

Project: The WenDang project aims to create the first open-access digital archive dedicated to the new forms of calligraphy that have emerged in contemporary China. The resource is used as a tool for investigating this complex phenomenon and its implications for Chinese society and culture.

The project employs Digital Humanities methods and tools, combining ontological modelling, Semantic Web technologies, and the publication of structured, interoperable, and openly accessible data. The WenDang archive brings together artworks, texts, and other materials collected during the ERC WRITE project, together with the project’s research outputs. These resources are organised and interconnected within a single open-access web environment.