

Association of Former UNESCO Staff Members (AFUS) Memory & Future Club



Enlightening the City of Light

A History of Public Lighting in Paris

From the oil lamp to the optical fiber, artificial sources of light have always accompanied the development of human activity.

To illustrate the impact of light on daily life, especially in cities where lighting of public spaces has become essential, the Memory & Future Club, in partnership with the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT) invited **Ara Kebapcioglu**, owner and curator of the Lumière de l'oeil, a boutique museum of ancient lighting, to describe, through the example of Paris, the City of Light, the way in which public lighting has influenced urban lifestyles.

Thursday 20 June 2019

1 – 2 pm

Room IX



In introduction, **Ahmed Fahmi**, from the Section of Innovation and Capacity Building in Science and Engineering of UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, will speak about the 2015 celebration of the **International Year of Light and light-based technologies**, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly and led by UNESCO as part of its International Basic Science Program. The International Year had significant results with nearly 10,000 activities in 148 countries reaching more than 100 million people. In particular, it resulted in the proclamation by UNESCO of an **International Day of Light** on 16 May to "continuously evaluate the central role of light in the lives of the world's citizens in the fields of science, culture and the arts, education, sustainable development".

The **Paris Institute of Critical Thinking (PICT)**, a non-profit organization founded in 2018 that offers university-quality humanities courses in the English language to audiences beyond the university, will be briefly introduced by **David Selim Sayers**.



The **Memory & Future Club** of the Association of Former UNESCO staff strives to collect and transmit testimonies of former officials and confront them with current issues in international cooperation. Building on their shared memory, members of this group meet informally with colleagues in charge to exchange freely and find through past experience a better path for the future.



Ara Kebapcioglu

is the owner and curator of Lumière de l'oeil, a Parisian museum, library, and workshop founded in 1981 and devoted to the history of lighting. Items from the Lumière de l'oeil collection have been exhibited at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva, and the Forney Library in Paris. Kebapcioglu has lectured on the history of lighting at venues including the Petit Palais at the invitation of the History Committee of the City of Paris (December 2017). As a period lighting consultant, he has worked on films such as *Moulin Rouge!*, *Interview with the Vampire* and *Adèle Blanc-Sec*.



Ahmed Fahmi

is program specialist in the life and chemical sciences at the United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Before joining UNESCO, he was a university lecturer in biochemistry at the University of London. He worked in South Asia and the Asia Pacific region on managing and coordinating the execution of the Basic Sciences, Engineering and Science Policy program of UNESCO and was a visiting professor at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. He was involved in coordinating the International Basic Sciences Program and Go-SPIN and is currently involved in the establishment of UNESCO centers of excellence and in establishing public private partnership in scientific research for Africa.



David Selim Sayers is a co-founder and core faculty member of the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT). Having received his B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University, Dr. Sayers has held teaching and research posts at a number of international universities, including San Francisco State University (2013-2016), the University of Vienna (2017-2018), and INALCO Paris (2018-present).