Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: 5C BioSphere Seminar: Mira Liu on 11/05

Hello!

Please join us this Thursday, 11/05, at The Nucleus for a 5C Biosphere Seminar by Professor Mira Liu:

"The Chemistry and Art of Natural Dyeing"

Professor Mira Liu
Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Department of Natural Sciences
Pitzer and Scripps Colleges

Thurs. Nov 05, 2026
12:15pm - 1:15pm
The Nucleus - E212

Additional DNS and 5C Chemistry Seminars can be found here:
https://natsci.claremont.edu/student-resources/seminars/

The 5C BioSphere

SPEAKER SERIES

The Chemistry and Art of Natural Dyeing



Abstract: Natural dyeing is an art form with roots extending back to ancient civilizations and prehistoric times. Since the Neolithic period, humans have extracted pigments from natural sources – plants, fungi, and even insects – to impart color on fabrics and other materials. Why can some plants be used for dyeing, while others cannot? What makes a molecule a dye? Join Dr. Mira Liu for a conversation about the underlying chemistry behind this ancient art form. We will use chemical principles to explain color and discuss variables that influence color, intensity, and permanence of dyes. We will also consider ethical foraging practices and safe, accessible methods for extracting and dyeing with natural materials.

DR. MIRA LIU

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Dr. Mira Liu is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Natural Sciences. She explores molecular-driven interactions between fungi, bacteria, and their environments. She is particularly drawn to microbes from perturbed or polluted contexts as they tend to exhibit unique adaptations. Dr. Liu's integrated art-science practice is rooted in observation and place: she extracts natural pigments from fungi, plants, and soil to reveal the hidden vibrancy of our local ecologies.

5 November, 2026
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Room E212
Nucleus East

Best,
Lauran Soto (she/they)
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