



Cultural Materiality

Concepts at stake in Comparative Manuscript Studies

Public Lecture Series, Spring Semester 2014

The manuscript, in its wide variety of forms and physical carriers, is the primary medium of source material for studying the pre-modern world across disciplines and cultures. The existence of shared concepts and methods in the field of manuscript studies suggests the potential of an integrated approach to manuscript traditions in a broader cross-cultural comparative perspective. This lecture series fosters such a comparative perspective by inviting experts on three manuscript traditions (Chinese, Arabic and Hebrew) to address a few key questions in the field of manuscript studies. The main focus of the series will be on the manuscript as a physical object, the interaction and dialogue of its materiality with the written text, the circumstances of its production, reproduction and transmission down through the ages, and on its function and use at different times and places in the history of oral and written communication.

Organization

Dr. Lisa Indraccolo, Dr. James Weaver, and Phillip Lasater, M.Div.

Supported by



March 26, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

The Text of the Hebrew Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Medieval Codex

Dr. Michael Segal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

April 9, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

Die Hebräische Bibel als schriftgelehrte Traditionsliteratur: Materiale Aspekte ihrer Entstehung

Prof. Dr. Konrad Schmid, Universität Zürich

May 7, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

Reading Scribal Culture in the Manuscripts of the Cairo Geniza

Dr. Esther-Miriam Wagner, Woolfe Institute, University of Cambridge

May 15, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

On the Media and Malleability of Early Chinese Writings

Dr. Paul Nicholas Vogt, University of Heidelberg

May 21, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

Moulding the Past: Writing, Text and Memory in Early Chinese Manuscripts

Rens Krijgsman, PhD candidate, University of Oxford

June 5, 2014, 18:15–20:00, WIE-07, Wiesenstrasse 7/9, 8008 Zurich

Überall Text: Arabische Dokumente als Quelle zur arabisch-islamischen Textkultur

Prof. Dr. Andreas Kaplony, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

June 11, 2014, 14:00–18:00, Main Building, Room KOL E-13, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

Final Roundtable

Guest lectures by

Prof. Dr. Michael Friedrich, Centre for the Studies of Manuscript Culture, University of Hamburg ("Manuscript Cultures in Comparison: Some Preliminary Suggestions")

Prof. Dr. Matthias L. Richter, University of Colorado at Boulder ("Textual Fluidity and Means of Securing Textual Identity in Early Chinese Manuscripts")