

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
announces a Lecture

by

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**European Archivality, 1400-1800: Manuscript Practices, Medial  
Configurations, and the Promise of Comparison**

The formation and operation of political archives represents a highly specialized site of manuscript practices found in many civilizations. Notably, organized archives experienced intensive development in late medieval and early modern Europe. The role of archives in modern historiography, moreover, makes it particularly important to understand the medial forms and configurations that made accumulated records knowable (or not) to their possessors and to their societies, and that produced the repositories now used by scholars. After reflecting on Ernst Posner's early effort to compare ancient Mediterranean archival practices, I will compare specific cases of archival management through manuscript codexes in early modern Lisbon and Innsbruck in order to illustrate my comparative approach to European archives and their organization. The central category of *archivality* also provides a pathway, I argue, to provincialize the important European case and thus to provide a framework for comparing how manuscript archival records were understood and managed across all civilizational traditions.

**Monday, 31 October 2016 at 6 pm**  
Room 0001, CSMC