

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

by

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**Marginal Numbers on Cuneiform Tablets from
Ur III Mesopotamia (c. 2112-2004 BCE)**

This lecture examines the traces of mathematical notations on two dozen cuneiform tablets from the Ur III dynasty of Mesopotamia. The cuneiform tablets are administrative records. The notations appear outside the main text, on edges and bottoms of columns, or in special boxes inserted in the main text. As such, they are called “marginal numbers”.

These marginal numbers testify to the diverse practices with place-value notations and sexagesimal factors in the Ur III administrative context. The diversity of place-value notations reflects the computational methods, which vary according to the operation (multiplication, reciprocal, addition, subtraction) involved, the context (administrative or mathematical) of application, and the archaeological provenience of the cuneiform tablet.

Tuesday, 27 February 2018 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC