

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
announces an Informal Talk

by

**Dr. Aneurin Ellis-Evans**  
University of Oxford

**Alien Libraries: Civic Book Collections in the  
Hellenistic World (3rd – 1st c. BCE)**

This paper will introduce recent research on the history of book collections in the Greek world from the Classical through to the Imperial period (5<sup>th</sup> c. BCE – 2<sup>nd</sup> c. CE). In particular, I will discuss the neglected case of the book collections to be found in Greek city-states (*poleis*) in the Hellenistic period (3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE). The nature of these libraries is illuminated by a small but rich corpus of inscriptions and papyri and, just as importantly, by our fine-grained knowledge of the civic institutions in which these book collections were embedded. The ways in which these civic libraries were formed, maintained, and thought about in the context of the Hellenistic polis distinguishes them from the other kinds of library which existed in the Greco-Roman world and which have traditionally garnered more attention – the royal libraries of the Hellenistic kingdoms (e.g. the library of Alexandria), the villa libraries of the Roman elite (e.g. the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum), the monumental libraries of the Greek East in the Imperial period (e.g. the library of Celsus at Ephesos), and the imperial libraries of Rome.

**Monday, 9 April 2018 at 2.30 pm**  
Room 2002, CSMC