



The Cluster of Excellence” Understanding Written Artefacts - Material, Interaction and Transmission in Manuscript Cultures”

announces an Informal Talk

by

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The Monument and the Inscription of Paikuli: Blending Epigraphy and Archaeology.

Near the Paikuli pass Narseh, the last of Šābuhr I's son to wear the Sasanian crown (293-302 CE), met the great dignitaries of the kingdom who had come to that valley to recognize his royal rights and dignity. He built a monument in this mountain valley that glorified his ascent to the throne and his role as protector of the dynastic legitimacy and bore a bilingual inscriptions explaining the reasons for its construction. A team of Italian archaeologists and epigraphists from the Sapienza-University of Rome surveyed and studied the commemorative monument from 2006-2008 and then again since 2017. In an extensive campaign investigating the vicinity 14 inscribed blocks could be identified, bearing Middle Persian and Parthian texts. Two more new blocks were discovered by the guardian of the site. The material is currently being studied but some preliminary considerations already highlight its relevance both in relation to the philological reconstruction of the text and as regards the arrangement of the epigraphs on the two distinct walls that housed them. The linguistic material is of utmost importance for the bilingual glossary of the inscription. The full understanding of the main features of the structure as well as the nature of the site and the area in which it was located represent a challenge that is as much stimulating as it is complicated and the new findings change the consolidated *communis opinio* radically.

Monday, 24 June 2019 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC