

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

by

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**European Culture Became Archival.
The History and Relevance of Organized
Record-Keeping in the Latin West**

This lecture will first examine key episodes in Europe's development towards an archive-based culture. It will start in the Middle Ages, address the critical developments from the 14th century onwards and highlight the growing sophistication of early modern archival institutions until it reaches more contemporary periods. A second part will investigate some of the concepts, metaphors, and basic assumptions that became associated with archives in Europe – the archive as a storing-house, a treasure, an arsenal etc. A third part will then address some of the complications, mal-functioning, and counterproductive developments triggered by a growing archivalization of Europe's culture. In doing so it will provide a more nuanced understanding of the merits and shortcomings of European archives which – hopefully – can provide a helpful background for the conference's more specialized discussion of non-European related phenomena.

Wednesday, 19 November 2014 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC