

# TEXTS WITHIN THE MATERIAL WORLD

*Assemblages, Contexts, Networks  
in Ancient Societies from Africa to Asia*



## International Conference

organised by:

Marilina Betrò, Jesper Eidem, Michael Friedrich, Cécile Michel, Gianluca Miniaci

**1-3 December 2021, Pisa**

Centro Congressi Le Benedettine (Piazza S. Paolo a Ripa D'Arno, 16, Pisa)

**REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE:**

<https://bit.ly/3JexRY>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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<https://bit.ly/ttwtmw>





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## Assemblages, Contexts, Networks in Ancient Societies from Africa to Asia

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PISA, 1–3 December 2021

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Organised by:

**Marilina Betrò, Jesper Eidem, Michael Friedrich, Cécile Michel, Gianluca Miniaci**  
Department of Excellence Civiltà e Forme del Sapere – Università di Pisa,  
Universität Hamburg, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures

Recent decades have seen growing interest in the materiality of ancient texts beyond their basic message (see the [study day](#) held in Pisa on 11th December 2017). The aim of the Conference is to reconsider ancient texts in their archaeological context or in the landscape to which they once belonged, in order to understand the intimate relationships between written and unwritten artefacts of a single assemblage/context, and how these may have influenced each other.

In this scenario, the conference will gather experts on ancient Egypt, Near East, Eastern Mediterranean, India, and China to present and share the complex nature and interactions of written artefacts, with the aim of making possible a very strong comparative perspective.

The Conference will be held in presence, with a limited number of places, but it will be made freely available online on the Microsoft Teams platform (interactive discussion between speakers and online attendees is made possible and welcome). Any participants must register by the 20 November 2021 at the following site: <https://bit.ly/3IJexRY>.

The participation is free of charge but registration is mandatory. The virtual classroom link will be sent by mail to the registered attendees after the 20 November.



# PROGRAMME

## Wednesday 1 December

17.00-17.30 - Welcome address by Pisa University and Director of Dept. of Civiltà e Forme del Sapere

17.30-18.00 - Introduction (Marilina Betrò, Cécile Michel)

18.00-18.45 - John Baines (Oxford): *Material and spatial contexts of early writing: Egypt and a comparison with late second millennium BCE China*

18.45-19.30 - Questions and discussion

## Thursday 2 December

9.30-10.00 - Susanne Töpfer (Museo Egizio): *Beyond Philology – What material features and scribal practice can tell about use and function of texts*

10.00-10.15 - Questions and discussion

10.15-10.45: Ondřej Škrabal (Hamburg): *For Spirits' Eyes Only? The Epigraphic Landscape of Ancient Chinese Ancestral Temples*

10.45-11.00 - Questions and discussion

11.00-11.30 - Coffee break

11.30-12.00 - Ludwig Morenz (Bonn): *Can the subaltern ... write? (Re-/De-)Constructing a palaeo-postcolonial discourses with a special focus on the invention of alphabetic writing*

12.00-12.15 - Questions and discussion

12.15-12.45 - Ingo Strauch (Lausanne): *Who wrote what in Ancient India and where and why*

12.45-13.00 - Questions and discussion

13.00-15.00 - Lunch break

15.00-15.30 - Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (Berlin): *„Open the tablet box and read!“ Textual artefacts and the creation of temporal communities*

15.30-15.45 - Questions and discussion

15.45-16.15 - Philippe Clancier (Paris): *“Get your notebooks!” Teaching material in context in late Uruk private houses*

16.15-16.30 - Questions and discussion

16.30-17.00 - Stefano De Martino (Turin), Michele Cammarosano (Naples): *The Tablet as Object: Hittite and Hurrian Texts*

17.00-17.15 - Questions and discussion



## Friday 3 December

09.00- 09.30 - Jorrit Kelder (Oxford/Leiden): *Text Matters. Epigraphy, archaeology, and our understanding of the Mycenaean world*

09.30-09.45 - Questions and discussion

9.45-10.15 - Jesper Eidem (Pisa), Cécile Michel (Paris): *Some Mesopotamian Challenges*

10.15-10.30 - Questions and discussion

10.30-11.00 - *Coffee break*

11.00-11.30 - Andreas Stauder (Paris): *Inscriptions in contact: early New Kingdom Qurnah*

11.30-11.45 - Questions and discussion

11.45-12.00 - Gianluca Miniaci (Pisa): *Mutilating written signs: how the materiality of text affected the forms of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs (2600-1500 BC)*

12.00-12.15 - Questions and discussion

12.15-13.15 - Final discussion (Michael Friedrich)

