

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

by

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**Writing Matters:
Documenting Ancient Scribal Techniques with Reflectance Transformation Imaging**

Among the various digital imaging techniques that have emerged over the past decade, Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) constitutes one of the most powerful methods for high resolution documentation and visualisation of inscribed surfaces. Following a brief introduction to RTI, a range of recently imaged inscribed objects from early (c.3100-c.2500 BCE) Egypt and the Near East will be examined. Beyond improved legibility, this lecture will also focus on how RTI is aiding research on scribal practice. Analysis yields clearer and more rigorous evidence for processes of composition, use of particular tools and techniques on different materials, surface orientation during writing (and associated image production), and possibly handedness. These preliminary results are then considered for what they reveal about the socio-cultural role of early textual materialities. The applicability of RTI for text-bearing surfaces in related disciplines is also briefly addressed.

November 8th, 2012 at 6 pm, Room 0003

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