

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

by

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**Selecting and Epitomizing Alchemical Knowledge: Byzantine and
Syriac Manuscripts on Alchemy.**

Our understanding of Graeco-Egyptian alchemy is mainly dependent upon the information provided by a few anthologies of alchemical works, which have been preserved by several Byzantine and Syriac manuscripts. These testimonies include just a selection of the original writings (or their translations into Syriac) and hand down different collections of treatises, which were chosen according to various criteria. Practical aims, questions of authorship, specific ideas about alchemy and its goals seem to have influenced the selection of the treatises that were included in the Byzantine and Syriac anthologies. Some of these criteria will be discussed in the light of the data derived from an in-depth analysis of the main manuscripts, which will be illustrated in respect both to their forms and to their contents.

Thursday, June 5th, 2014 at 6 pm

Room 0001

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