

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

by

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**From scratched inscriptions to social tagging:  
the historical and cultural dimension of annotating texts**

The talk deals with a special aspect of written culture, namely the writing of marginalia in texts and books. These secondary inscriptions from the hand of a reader range from casual scribbling to planned and lengthy secondary annotations or non-written elements like signs, notes, paper slips, and drawings. These annotations and other reading traces play a special role from the point of view of cultural history. As so-called 'paratexts' they belong to the rare witnesses of the real and factual use of books, for example in the Middle Ages. Mark-ups in books help answering the question as to when, why and by whom texts were read. Moreover, they uncover the process of knowledge acquisition and knowledge transmission throughout the ages. From this starting point traditions can be identified that have deeply influenced our modern techniques of communication, especially in the domain of Digital Humanities and Web.2.0. Technology.

**January 16, 2013 at 6 pm, Room 0003**

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