

Signs of Writing. The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's First Writing Systems III

Paris, 25-27 July 2016

University of Chicago Center in Paris, 6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris (25-26 July)
Sorbonne, EPHE, Salle Gaston Paris (escalier E) (27 July)



Monday, July 25 – University of Chicago Center in Paris

9:00 a.m. Coffee and Registration

9:15 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

SESSION ONE ORIGINS OF GENRES: CONTEXTS, RHETORIC, AND TRANSMISSION

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. *Writing and Aesthetic Domains in Third-Millennium Egypt*

John BAINES (Oxford University)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Dead Ends and Tangled Threads: From Proto-Cuneiform to Writing*

Piotr MICHALOWSKI (University of Michigan)

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. *Maya Hieroglyphic Writing as a Paradigm for Mesoamerican Scripts*

Marc ZENDER (Tulane University)

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Coffee break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. *On Patrimonial Rhetoric: A Search for Meaning in the Discursive Style of Classic Maya Monuments*

SIMON MARTIN (University of Pennsylvania Museum)

11:45 – 12:15 p.m. *How and Why Were Texts Written in Ancient China? Instances of Scribal Culture from China's Middle and Later Antiquity*

Edward SHAUGNESSY (University of Chicago)

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch

SESSION TWO WRITING IN ITS CULTURAL CONTEXTS

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. *Statistical and Anthropological Analyses of Ancient Writing: A Study of Classic Maya Parentage Statements*

Joel PALKA (University of Illinois–Chicago)

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. *High-Cultural Settings and The Typology of Early Egyptian Writing*

Andréas STAUDER (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Coffee break

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. *Le geste et le signe. L'écriture cursive « hiératique » en contexte rituel égyptien*

Sylvie DONNAT BEAUQUIER (Université de Strasbourg)

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. *The Invention of Writing: Old Babylonian Schools and The Semiology of The Diviners*

Jean-Jacques GLASSNER (CNRS, Paris)

Tuesday, July 26 – University of Chicago Center in Paris

SESSION THREE PRECURSORS, BOUNDARIES, AND THE INVENTION OF WRITING

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. *Interplay or Continuum? The Relationship of Writing to Iconography and Notation Systems*

Gordon WHITTAKER (University of Göttingen)

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. *Writing and “Restricted Semiographies” (“Non-Textual/Non-Linguistic Symbolic Systems”). Clarifying Their Relationships in Light of The Ancient Egyptian Data*

Pascal VERNUS (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Implications of the Reading Brain for Understanding the Origins of Writing and the Emergence of Deep Reading*

Maryanne WOLF (Tufts University)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Coffee break

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. *Decoding Shang “Clan Signs”*

Haicheng WANG (University of Washington)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. *Writing and Emblems in Early China*

Olivier VENTURE (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

11:45 – 12:15 a.m. *Co-occurrence of Textual and Non-Textual Usages of Lineage Signs in Early Chinese Bronzes: Implications for The Emergence of Writing in China and Beyond*

Wolfgang BEHR (University of Zurich)

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch

SESSION FOUR SCRIBAL PRACTICES

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. *Parsing Cuneiform: Thoughts on the Predictability of Third and Second Millennia BCE Inscriptions*

Massimo MAIOCCHI (University of Chicago)

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. *Dater une écriture : l'évolution de l'écrit, selon les genres de textes, les milieux sribaux et les lieux en Mésopotamie entre - 2100 et -1600*

Michaël Guichard (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. *Logographic Glosses on Phonographic Texts: A Japanese Counter-Teleology?*

David LURIE (Columbia University)

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Coffee break

SESSION FIVE WRITING BEYOND SPEECH

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. *Determinatives and Punctuation: Learning to Read Achaemenid-Elamite*

Wouter HENKELMAN (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

4:15 – 4:45 p.m. *Ad Hoc Graphs in Shang Oracle Bone Writing*

Françoise BOTTÉRO (CNRS, CRLAO, Paris)

4:45 – 5:15 p.m. *Determinatives in Sumerian Writing from the Perspective of Noun Classifier Systems*

Christopher WOODS (University of Chicago)

Wednesday, July 27 – Sorbonne, EPHE, Salle Gaston Paris

SESSION SIX NUMERICAL NOTATION AND MATHEMATICAL TEXTS

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. *The Status of Sumerograms in Mathematical Cuneiform Texts*

Christine PROUST (CNRS, SPHERE, Paris)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Variation and Agency in Written Lexical and Graphic Numerals*

Stephen CHRISOMALIS (Wayne State University)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Coffee break

SESSION SEVEN THE ADAPTATION OF WRITING SYSTEMS

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. *The Paucity of Writing Systems and the Native Script Phenomenon*

Amalia GNANADESIKAN (University of Maryland)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. *Mesopotamianisms in the Achaemenid Elamite Adaptation of Cuneiform*

Matthew STOLPER (University of Chicago)

11:45 – 12:15 a.m. *The Invention of the Meroitic Scripts (Cursive and Hieroglyphics)*

Claude RILLY (CNRS, Llacan, Paris)

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch


SESSION EIGHT THE VISUAL DIMENSION OF SIGNS

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. *Diacritics in Mesopotamian Cuneiform: Complexity & Compounding in Early Writing Systems*

Gonzalo RUBIO (Pennsylvania State University)

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. *Diacritics in Yi writing*

Anna STRYJEWSKA (University of Zurich)

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. *The Figurative Graph  for 'Rainbow' in Chinese Oracle Bones Inscriptions and The Impact of Popular Faith on Its Evolution*

Christelle MARÉCHAL (CNRS, CRLAO, Paris)

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Coffee break

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. *Hieroglyphes égyptiens : une paléographie, dans quel(s) but(s)*

Dimitri MEEKS (CNRS, ENIM, Montpellier)

4:15 – 4:45 p.m. *They Wrote on Stone*

Annick PAYNE (University of Basel)

4:45 – 5:15 p.m. *Impossible Unities: Animation, Vitalism, and Full – Figure Glyphs among the Maya*

Stephen HOUSTON (Brown University)