



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA



# BEYOND THE TEXT

## The Materiality of Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Texts



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
PISA, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Workshop location: Seminar Room Sal-1 (first floor),  
Dipartimento di Civiltà e Forme del Sapere, via dei Mille 19, Pisa (Italy)

Organised by: Marilina Betrò, Jesper Eidem, Jeanette C. Fincke, Gianluca Miniaci

[www.egittologia.cfs.unipi.it](http://www.egittologia.cfs.unipi.it)

[www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)

Ancient texts on a variety of media from Ancient Egypt, the Near East, and the Eastern Mediterranean constitute the oldest written record available, and provide unique insight into the social, religious, economic and private life of people at the dawn of history. In spite of the fact that the various text media are inscribed *artefacts*, they have often been treated as mere *texts*, and the inscription studied with usually slight regard for its artefactual context.

The last decade has fortunately witnessed a growing interest in the materiality and other aspects of ancient text media beyond the basic text message – concurrent with the appearance of new scientific analytical tools and digital recording systems.

In this workshop we want to explore further the insights to be gained from these new research approaches and to promote a holistic view of inscribed media, crossing the data coming from both archaeological and textual approaches, in an interdisciplinary context.

The workshop aims to gather a small number of experts on Ancient Egyptian, Near Eastern, and Eastern Mediterranean, under a comparative lens (Mesoamerica and anthropology), to present and discuss some recent trends and developments in study of the "materiality" of these scripts. It will be preparatory to a larger conference on the same subject which is planned for early 2019.

## Programme

9.00-9.20: *Introduction* by **Marilina Betrò** and **Jesper Eidem**

Chair: *Gianluca Miniaci*

9.20-9.35: **John Baines** - *Material and other constraints on the development of written texts*

9.35-9.50: **Stefano de Martino** - *Archaeometric analyses on the clay of cuneiform tablets and the historical geography of Hittite Anatolia*

9.50-10.05: **Elena Devecchi** - *The power of format: tabular bookkeeping in Kassite Babylonia*

10.05-10.20: **Silvia Ferrara** - *Iconicity in writing: early scripts and the Cretan hieroglyphic case*

10.20-10.35: **Jeanette C. Fincke** - *Proof correction marks on cuneiform tablets: evidence for the procedure of proofreading*

*Break*

Chair: *Jeanette C. Fincke*

11.00-11.15: **Ben Haring** - *Ostraca: preliminary scribbles or finished products?*

11.15-11.30: **Gianluca Miniaci** - *Mutilating written signs: how the materiality of text affected the forms of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs (2600-1500 BC)*

11.30-11.45: **Karenleigh Overmann** - *The material record of the Ancient Near East: new directions for research in numeracy and literacy*

11.45-12.00: **Ludo Snijders** - *High-tech imaging for the study of texts. Challenges and opportunities from Mexican cases*

12.15-12.30: **Andréas Stauder** - *The Thutmoside viziral cycle: space, materiality, and induced interpretive frames*

12.30-12.45: **Jon Taylor** - *More than words: what else cuneiform inscriptions tell us*

*Break*

**Afternoon session 15.00-16.30**

15.00-16.30: *Summary/Discussion of morning session and new directions*

**17.00-18.00: NEXT MEETING (only for speakers)**

*The event has been funded by The Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO), the University of Pisa, and the association VOLO, under the funding scheme for university student activities ([www.associazionevolo.it](http://www.associazionevolo.it)).*

