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Digital Palaeography and Hebrew/Aramaic Scribal Culture

The 2021 International Online Groningen Symposium
 6–8 April 2021
 13:00–20:00 Central European Summer Time (UTC+2)

Hosted by the
 Qumran Institute (University of Groningen)
 Bernoulli Institute (University of Groningen)

To register, please email Drew Longacre at d.g.longacre@rug.nl.
 A Zoom invitation will be sent to presenters and registered attendees on 5 April.

Tuesday, 6 April

13:00 CET **Jouke de Vries (President of the University of Groningen)**
Welcome

Mladen Popović (University of Groningen)
Introduction

Session 1 — The Hands that Wrote the Bible: Digital Palaeography

Chair: Eibert Tigchelaar

13:15 **Mladen Popović (University of Groningen)**
Digital Palaeography for Identifying the Unknown Scribes and Dating the Undated Manuscripts from the Dead Sea Scrolls

13:45 **Maruf Dhali (University of Groningen)**
Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition Techniques in Analyzing the Dead Sea Scrolls

14:15 **Gemma Hayes (University of Groningen)**
Digital Palaeography and the Scribes of the Dead Sea Scrolls

14:45 **Drew Longacre (University of Groningen)**
Data Mining for Writer Identification: The Test Case of the Dead Sea Psalm Scrolls

15:15 Discussion

15:30–16:15 Break

Session 2 — The Hands that Wrote the Bible: Radiocarbon Dating

Chair: Mladen Popović

16:15 **Kaare Rasmussen (University of Southern Denmark)**
The 14C Dating in the ERC project “The Hands that Wrote the Bible”: Chemical Aspects and the Cleaning of the Samples

16:45 **Hans van der Plicht (University of Groningen)**
The 14C Dating in the ERC project “The Hands that Wrote the Bible”: Physical Aspects and the Measurement of the 14C Content

17:15 Discussion

17:30–18:15 Break

Session 3 — Hebrew/Aramaic Palaeography

Chair: Drew Longacre

- 18:15 **Michael Langlois (University of Strasbourg)**
Deciphering Ancient Hebrew and Aramaic Inscriptions in a Digital World:
Potential and Limitations
- 18:45 **James Moore (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)**
Toward a Systematic Description of the Imperial Aramaic Script and its Meaning
for Dating and Writer Identification

PROJECT UPDATES

- 19:15 **Bronson Brown-deVost (University of Göttingen)**
Scripta Qumranica Electronica
- 19:30 **Daniel Stoekl ben Ezra (École Pratique des Hautes Études)**
eScripta
- 19:45 **Sarah Yardney and Miller Prosser (University of Chicago)**
CEDAR/OCHRE
- 20:00 Conclusion

Wednesday, 7 April

13:00 CET Welcome

Session 4 — Digital Palaeography

Chair: Maruf Dhali

13:15 **Lambert Schomaker (University of Groningen)**
TBD

13:45 **Peter Stokes (École Pratique des Hautes Études)**
When is a Scribe Not a Scribe? Some Reflections on Writer Identification

14:15 **Nachum Dershowitz (Tel Aviv University)**
Computational Paleography

14:45 Discussion

15:00–15:45 Break

Session 5 — Digital Palaeography

Chair: Lambert Schomaker

15:45 **Shira Faigenbaum-Golovin (Tel Aviv University)**
Algorithmic Handwriting Analysis of Iron Age Documents and its Implications to the Composition of Biblical Texts

16:15 **Hussein Mohammed (Universität Hamburg)**
Pattern-Recognition Approaches for Handwriting-Style Analysis

16:45 **Eythan Levy (Tel Aviv University) and Frédéric Pluquet (Haute École Louvain en Hainaut [HELHa] - Tournai and Ecole Supérieure d'Informatique [ESI] - Brussels)**
New Developments in the Scrypt Software for Old Hebrew Epigraphy

17:15 Discussion

17:30–18:15 Break

Session 6 — Hebrew/Aramaic Palaeography

Chair: Gemma Hayes

18:15 **Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (University of Oxford)**
Hebrew Palaeography Album: A New Online Tool to Study Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts

18:45 **Elvira Martín-Contreras (Spanish National Research Council)**
Distinguishing Scribal Hands in the Masora of the Medieval Hebrew Bible Manuscripts

PROJECT UPDATES

19:15 **Joe Uziel (Israel Antiquities Authority)**
IAA projects

19:30 **Isabelle Marthot-Santaniello (University of Basel)**
D-Scribes

19:45 **James Moore (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)**
Elephantine

20:00 Conclusion

Thursday, 8 April

13:00 CET Welcome

Session 7 — Hebrew/Aramaic Palaeography and Textual Communities

Chair: Mladen Popović

- 13:15 **Eibert Tigchelaar (KU Leuven)**
Scribal Culture, Palaeography, and the Scrolls
- 13:45 **Ayhan Aksu (University of Groningen)**
Leaving No Scroll Unturned: Opisthographs and Scribal Culture of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- 14:15 **Hanneke van der Schoor (KU Leuven)**
Assessing Palaeographic Variation in Informal Manuscripts: The Scribe(s) of the Testament of Qahat and Visions of Amram^e
- 14:45 Discussion

15:00–15:45 Break

Session 8 — Hebrew/Aramaic Palaeography

Chair: Ayhan Aksu

- 15:45 **Nadia Vidro (University College London)**
Calendars from the Cairo Genizah as a Dating Tool for Palaeography
- 16:15 **Estara J Arrant (University of Cambridge)**
From Scholastic to Scribal: A Developmental Analysis of “Unprofessional” Square Hebrew Script from Cairo Genizah Bible Fragments
- 16:45 **Elihu Shannon (Sofer STaM)**
Why My Script is Different from My Teacher's
- 17:15 Discussion

17:30–18:15 Break

Session 9 — Final Discussion Panels

Chairs: Drew Longacre and Maruf Dhali

18:15 Digital Palaeography Panel Discussion

18:45 Hebrew/Aramaic Palaeography and Scribal Culture Panel Discussion

19:15 Final Open Discussion

20:00 Conclusion