

Practical Knowledge and Medical Practice in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures

International Conference, 2-3 November 2015

Conference Programme

Convened by

Philip van der Eijk (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
and Markham J. Geller (Freie Universität Berlin)

Organised by

Christine F. Salazar (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Lennart Lehmhaus (Freie Universität Berlin)
Franziska Desch (BerGSAS Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies, TOPOI Excellence Cluster
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

on behalf of

Collaborative Research Center (SFB 980) Episteme in Motion, Research Project A03
The Transfer of Medical Episteme in the 'Encyclopaedic' Compilations of Late Antiquity

Heads: Philip van der Eijk and Markham J. Geller

www.sfb-episteme.de/en/teilprojekte/sagen/A03/index.html

The conference is funded by SFB 980 *Episteme in Motion*

Unterstützt von / Supported by



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung / Foundation

and by

'Zentrum Grundlagenforschung Alte Welt' of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities



berlin-brandenburgische
AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



Sonderforschungsbereich 980
**EPISTEME IN
BEWEGUNG**

Monday, November 2, 2015

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Klassische Philologie
Marmorsaal, Room 2249a, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin-Mitte

Contact: Sekretariat Prof. Philip van der Eijk
Dr. Friederike Herklotz and Katharina Bordiehn
Room 3050, +49 (0)30.2093-70426

9.30

Registration

SESSION I, 10.00 – 12.00

10.00

Conference Opening

Welcome by **Philip van der Eijk**

10.15

Karl-Heinz Leven (Erlangen)

„... auch die Ärzte konnten zunächst nicht helfen“ – Pest-Therapien in der Antike und in byzantinischer Zeit,

followed by discussion.

Chair: **Christine Salazar** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

(This lecture will also count as the Monday Colloquium for 2 November.)

Lunch break (A list of restaurants in the neighbourhood will be available.)

SESSION II, 14.15 – 16.50

14.15 – 15.25

Matteo Martelli (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Recipes and therapies ascribed to the prophet Esdras in the Byzantine and Syriac tradition.

Chair: **Francesca Corazza** (Excellence Cluster Topoi, Berlin)

Short break

15.40 – 16.50

Dan Levene (Southampton)

Interdigitation of heterodox and orthodox in the living medical tradition of Ethiopia – stimulating thoughts about earlier Near Eastern magico-medical traditions.

Chair: **Lennart Lehmhaus** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Afternoon tea at Foyer Marmorsaal, then we walk over to the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften together (ca. 15 minutes' walk).



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SESSION III, 18.00 – 19.30

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Einstein-Saal
Jägerstraße 22-23, 5th floor, 10117 Berlin-Mitte.

Keynote lecture

Ralph Jackson (British Museum, London)

Medical Instruments in Late Antiquity: Continuity and Change.

Chair: **Roland Wittwer** (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften)

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Freie Universität Berlin, TOPOI-Haus, Vortragssaal

Hittorfstraße 18, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Contact: Sekretariat Prof. Markham J. Geller: Sabine Büchner, Professur für Wissensgeschichte
Room 108, +49 (0)30.838-58041

from 9.15 Morning coffee at TOPOI Wintergarten

9.45

Welcome address on behalf of SFB 980

Gyburg Uhlmann (Freie Universität Berlin)

SESSION I, 10.00 – 10.45

Strahil V. Panayotov (Freie Universität Berlin)

What do we know about Mesopotamian surgery – and what would we like to know?

Chair: **M. Ossendrijver** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Short break

SESSION II, 11.15 – 12.15

Keynote lecture

Nils P. Heeßel (Würzburg)

The domiciliary visit of the Babylonian healer – what do we actually know about the practical side of Babylonian diagnostics?

Chair: **J. Cale Johnson** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Lunch (for speakers/ chairs only), served at TOPOI-House

SESSION III, 13.45 – 15.00

Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim (London)

On the practice of bloodletting in the Hebrew medical work Sefer Asaf.

Lennart Lehmann (Berlin)

“Red for Red” – bloodletting between medicine and lifestyle in Talmudic sources.

Chair Session IV: **Almut Renger** (Freie Universität Berlin)



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Coffee / tea

SESSION IV, 15.30 – 17.00

Shulamit Ch. Shinnar (New York)

Rabbinic Techniques for Examining Parturient Tissue: Considering the Place of Graeco-Roman Medical Traditions within the Rabbinic Textual Corpus.

Chair: **Ulrike Steinert** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Stefanie M. Rudolf (Freie Universität Berlin)

The Syriac Medicine man – medical science according to Bar Bahlul.

Chair: **Lucia Raggetti** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Concluding remarks by Markham J. Geller

High tea / refreshments

SESSION V, 18.15 – 19.45

TOPOI-Haus, Vortragssaal

Keynote lecture

Paul U. Unschuld (Charité Berlin)

What Is (Chinese) Medicine?

Chair: **Gerd Graßhoff** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Workshop, 9.30 – 14.30

Freie Universität Berlin, TOPOI-Haus, Kaminzimmer, Hittorfstraße 18, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem
'Practical Medicine in Jewish Scriptures and Adjacent Traditions'

Chair: **Franziska Desch** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Participants include among others: **Shulamit Shinnar** (New York), **Igor Itkin** (Berlin), **Lucia Raggetti** (Berlin), **Lennart Lehmann** (Berlin).





Practical Knowledge & Medical Practice in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures International Conference, 2-3 November 2015

To focus this meeting on the theme of Medical Practice will serve as a reminder that – whatever elaborate theories ancient experts might have held – this was not all that mattered in the day-to-day needs of their profession. Yet, the paucity of written evidence and archaeological remains frequently tell us more about the intellectual underpinnings of ancient medicine than about actual medical procedures. Since theory and practice were of equal importance in the constitution and transmission of medical knowledge, it is worthwhile to try and tease out whatever information is available about the reality of medical treatments. The conference presentations will address the different healing practices (diagnosis, bloodletting, surgery and other forms of treatment, including incantations) and the ways in which this practical medical knowledge was gained and transferred via experts, institutions and procedures. The multi-perspective comparative approach to Mesopotamian, Greek, Byzantine, Jewish-Talmudic, Chinese, Persian and Syriac medical traditions will help to sharpen the understanding of practical medicine in the Mediterranean across different periods and in varying socio-cultural contexts.

With our sincere thanks to

Angelika Fuss, Finances coordinator SFB 980, Freie Universität Berlin
Kristiane Hasselmann, Managing director SFB 980, Freie Universität Berlin
Nina Dietzemann, Head of Public Relations, Freie Universität Berlin

and the A03 team

Sabine Büchner, Sekr. Geller, Freie Universität Berlin
Friederike Herklotz, Sekr. van der Eijk, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Igor Itkin, Student Assistant, Freie Universität Berlin
Agnes Kloocke, Team Geller, Freie Universität Berlin
Evangelia Nikoloudakis, Student Assistant, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Jana Schmalfuß, Student Assistant, Freie Universität Berlin

Christine F. Salazar and **Lennart Lehmann**
Conference Organisers SFB 980/A03