

Physiognomy and Ekphrasis: The Mesopotamian Tradition and its Transformation in Graeco-Roman and Semitic Literatures

February 16–17, 2016, Freie Universität Berlin

BabMed Annual Workshop 3, organized by [J. Cale Johnson](#) and [Alessandro Stavrú](#)

Venue: Kleine Fächer 'Holzlaube', Fabeckstraße 23-25, 14195 Berlin, Room 2.2063
BabMed office, contact Agnes Kloocke: +49-30-838-57687, mobile +49-163-315-0958

Tuesday 16 February 2016

<i>Coffee and registration</i>	10.00–10.30
Introduction by Karin Gludovatz (Dean of History and Cultural Studies, FU Berlin)	10:30–10.45
Overview by J. Cale Johnson and Alessandro Stavrú (FU Berlin)	10:45–11:15
<i>Short break/coffee</i>	11.15–11.45
MESOPOTAMIA	
Nils P. Heeßel (Würzburg) http://www.altorientalistik.uni-wuerzburg.de/mitarbeiter/nils_p_heessel/	11:45–12:30
Curling hairs, curious figures, and cuneiform signs: An overview on Babylonian physiognomy.	
J. Cale Johnson (Freie Universität Berlin) http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/babmed/staff/johnson.html	12:30–13:15
Demarcating Ekphrasis in Mesopotamia	
<i>Lunch (on site)</i>	13:15–14:15
Reading Session (Mesopotamia)	14:15–15:15
<i>Short break/tea</i>	15:15–15:45
Kenneth G. Zysk (Copenhagen) http://ccrs.ku.dk/staff/?pure=en/persons/97751	15:45–16:30
The flow of physiognomic ideas in antiquity: India, Mesopotamia and Greece	
Marvin Schreiber (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) http://berliner-antike-kolleg.org/cv/marvin-schreiber/	16:30–17:15
Late Babylonian astrological physiognomy	
<i>Conference Dinner</i>	18:00–21:00

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<i>Morning coffee at Holzlaube</i>	10:15–10:45
GRAECO-ROMAN	
Alessandro Stavrú (Freie Universität Berlin) http://fu-berlin.academia.edu/AlessandroStavrú	10:45–11:30
Physiognomy and Ekphrasis from Aristotle to the Second Sophistic	
Maria Gerolemou (Nicosia) http://ucy.academia.edu/MariaGerolemou	11:30–12:15
Callistratus' <i>Statuarum descriptiones</i>: Portraying Mental Disorder	
Reading Session (Graeco-Roman)	12:15–13:15
<i>Lunch</i>	13:15–14:15
Laetitia Marcucci (Nice) http://crhi-unice.fr/post-doctorants/243-laetitia-marcucci	14:15–15:00
Physiognomics and 'actio' by Cicero and Quintilian: the application and transformation of the traditional physiognomics in rhetorical theory	
Gian Franco Chiai (BBAW Berlin) http://www.topoi.org/person/chiai-gian-franco/	15:00–15:45
Good emperors, bad emperors: the function of physiognomic representation in Suetonius' <i>De vita Caesarum</i>	
<i>Tea/break</i>	15:45–16:15
ARABIC	
Antonella Ghersetti (Venice) http://www.unive.it/data/persona/5592483	16:15–17:00
Physiognomy in the Arabic tradition: Arabic roots, Greek influence.	
Emily Cottrell (Paris) and Regula Forster (Freie Universität Berlin) http://ephe-sorbonne.academia.edu/EmilyCottrell http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/semiarab/arabistik/staf/prof/forster/index.html	17:00–17:45
Physiognomy as a Secret for the King. The chapter on physiognomy in the pseudo-Aristotelian "Secret of Secrets"	
Final discussion	17:45–18:15
<i>High Tea (on site)</i>	18.15–18.45