

Seals, visual traditions, and material practice: early writing in comparative perspective

Paris, 24 – 25 November 2023



Friday 24 November (MSH Raspail, salle 09)

14:30 – 15:30

Introduction —

by Richard Bussmann & Andréas Stauder

Why cylinder seal(ing)s? Material practices and visual trajectories,

by Gebhard Selz (Universität Wien)

16:00 – 17:30

Sealing versus writing: materiality and practices of the early Egyptian script,

by Richard Bussmann (Universität Köln)

The proto-Elamite classic style. Seals on texts, texts on seals: who was in charge?

by Clelia Paladre (Musée du Louvre, Département des Antiquités orientales)

Saturday 25 November (Sorbonne, salle Delamarre, le matin ; Gaston Paris, l'après-midi)

9:00 – 10:30

Divergent bureaucratic pathways: comparative analysis of seals and sealing practices in Mesopotamia and Iran at the dawn of the state

by Roger Matthews (University of Reading) & Amy Richardson (University of Reading)

Private person or public persona? Exploring the use of seals in the Indus Civilization as visual identifiers of formal socio-economic roles,

by Dennys Frenesz (Muscat / Università di Bologna)

11:00 – 12:30

Patterns, space and meaning: Seals as a springboard to writing on Crete,

by Silvia Ferrara (Università di Bologna)

Visual traditions and early writing on Egyptian seals of the late fourth millennium BCE,

by Andréas Stauder (École Pratique des Hautes Études - PSL)

14:00 – 16:00

Protodynastic sealing as a new technology of visualising knowledge: Praxis of administration, expression of ideology, intellectual pleasure ...,

by Ludwig Morenz (Universität Bonn)

From stone to clay and back again: An exploration of imagery's polyvalence and multimodality in early Mesopotamian glyptic,

by Sarah Jarmer Scott (Wagner College, NY)

Discussion

Discussants:

Jean-Jacques Glassner (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)

Pascal Vernus (École Pratique des Hautes Études - PSL)

Locations

- Friday 24 November: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH), 54 boulevard Raspail, 75006 (metro Sèvres-Babylone) — salle 09 (level -1)

- Saturday 25 November: Sorbonne, 17 rue de la Sorbonne, 75005 (metro Cluny-Sorbonne) — Escalier E (EPHE), salles Deleamarre / Gaston Paris. (Cross the cour d'honneur walking 45 degrees to the left, follow the corridor that opens on the left corner in front of you, and take Escalier E to the first floor.)

— *For the Sorbonne, please take an ID card or a professional card.*



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