

## International Hybrid Conference

# The intertwining of magic and knowledge/sciences in the premodern Mediterranean (and beyond)



**Paris, 18-19 MAY 2023**

Sponsored and organized by the research network

[\*Between Encyclopaedia and Epitome – Talmudic strategies of knowledge-making in the context of ancient medicine and sciences\*](#)

(Tübingen University, University College London, Freie Universität Berlin)

In past scholarship magic has often been discussed as the “eternal other” or complete opposite of either religion or rationale and scientific thought — or both. These dichotomies have been thoroughly revised during recent decades and researchers substantially broadened and nuanced our understanding of ancient magic. This conference enquires into magic but not as part of any dichotomy. Rather, the focus lies on ‘magic’ as a branch of knowledge of its own which was part of the ancient landscape of sciences, arts, crafts, and general know-how, closely entangled with other fields. Presentations will discuss how magical texts, artefacts, practices, or concepts intertwine with those in other branches of knowledge such as medicine, alchemy, celestial knowledge, liturgy and others. Contributors will examine how ‘magic’ was involved in the often subtle or indirect transmission and transformation of knowledge. Analysis will be based on sources from a variety of magical traditions, from the Near East and Europe in ancient and medieval periods.

**The conference is co-sponsored** by the *Institut des Étude Avancée de Paris (IAE-Paris Institute for Advanced Study)* and the *École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE)*

**Organized** by Lennart Lehmhaus (*Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen*), David Hamidovic and Eleonora Serra (*University of Lausanne*), Wissem Gueddich (*École Pratique des Hautes Études*), Florentina Badalanova Geller (*Royal Anthropological Institute, 2022-2023 Paris IAS fellow*), and Mark Geller (*University College London*).

## **Conference schedule**

### **FIRST CONFERENCE DAY, THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023**

Venue: La Fondation Victor Lyon  
29 Boulevard Jourdan, 75014 Paris, France  
Auditorium

Co-sponsored by the *Paris Institute for Advanced Study (IEA/IAS)*.

15:30 Arrival/Welcome

#### **16:00 Session 1: Transmission, Scribal Knowledge and Intertextuality**

David Hamidovic (Lausanne), *The Ritual of the Woman in Adultery in the Damascus Document (4Q266 12; 4Q270 4): An Example of Transmission and Recontextualization*.

Eleonora Serra (Lausanne/UCL), *Intertextuality in the Magic Bowls*.

17:30 Break

#### **18:00 Session 2: Practical Medicine, Recipes and Animal Parts**

Caroline Petit (Warwick), *Galen, Empiricism, and The Fragments of Xenocrates of Aphrodisias*

Lennart Lehmann (Tübingen), *(Don't) Stop the Magic – magic rituals, performance, and expertise as practical medicine in late antique rabbinic texts*.

19:30 Dinner (at the FVL) (for participants only)

### **SECOND CONFERENCE DAY, FRIDAY, 19 MAY 2023**

Venue: INHA, Institut National d'Histoire de l'art,  
2 rue Vivienne, Paris 75002  
Salle Vasari

Co-sponsored by *École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE)*, Judith Olszowy-Schlanger and Wissem Gueddich.

#### **9:00 Session 3: Ritual Techniques and the Knowledge of Animals and Other Species**

Thomas Galoppin (Toulouse), *The Names of the Beasts: Zoological Knowledge and Magical Language*.

Paolo Lucca (Venice), *Roaring Demons and Hunting Saints. Typology and function of the historiola in the Armenian magical texts*.

10:30 Coffee Break (Salle Warburg)

11:00 Session 4 (zoom): **Divination, Demons, and Drugs**

Stefanie Rudolf (Berlin/Tübingen), *Demons of infertility in a pharmacological garden: King Solomons dialogue with the angel of the spirit in Syriac sources.*

Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv), *Divination and Magic in Late-Antique Judaism.*

12:30 Lunch Break (Salle Warburg) (for participants only)

14:00 Session 5: **Materialities of Magic**

Monika Amsler (Bern), *Some Thoughts on the Materiality and Affordances of Babylonian Incantation Bowls.*

Wissem Gueddich (Paris), *A Hebrew Parchment from Clermont l'Hérault?*

15:30 Coffee Break (Salle Warburg)

16:00 Session 6 (zoom): **Compilation and Appropriation of Traditions and Artefacts**

Emma Abate (Bologna), *Amulets and Recipes: A pinch of Magic from the Hebrew manuscripts collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF).*

Yakir Paz (Jerusalem), *Translating Jannes and Jambres into Rabbinic Literature.*

17:30 Short Break

17:45 Session 7: **Sleep Well - Dream Magic in Religion, Liturgy, and Medicine**

Alessia Bellusci (Venice), *The longue durée of dreams in Jewish culture: Between magic, medicine, and religion.*

Final Discussion

From 19:00 / 19:30 Conference Dinner at a restaurant (for participants only)

### **Zoom information:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83489844239?pwd=eGllLdTF5NkYyMEMzeDhmejR5TG1ZZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 8984 4239

Passcode: 007464

**For in-person attendance, please register with:**

[journeepaleohebephe@gmail.com](mailto:journeepaleohebephe@gmail.com)