ÖAW · CENTRAL

2–5 DECEMBER 2024
WORKSHOP

BOOKLET OF ABSTRACTS



CENTRAL JOINT WORKSHOP 2024

# MOSAICS OF DETAILS

## FROM LITTLE PIECES TO THE BIG PICTURE

## WITHIN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK



**HOST INSTITUTIONS**
Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austrian Archaeological Institute)
University of Vienna (Institute of Egyptology)

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**REGISTRATION FOR KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Please register for the keynote lecture until 27 November 2024 by sending an email with the subject "CENTRAL Joint Workshop: Keynote Lecture". All emails shall be directed to:
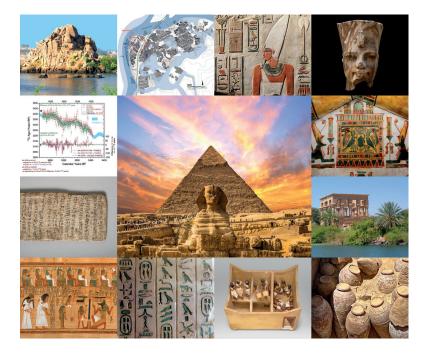roman.gundacker@oeaw.ac.at

The rest of this workshop will follow an open-door policy with colleagues from participating institutions and students of Egyptology or neigbouring fields taking precedence over others.

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# INTRODUCTION

## CENTRAL JOINT WORKSHOP 2024

**Roman Gundacker** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

*Mosaics of Details:*
*From Little Pieces to the Big Picture within an Interdisciplinary Framework*

Ancient Egypt is commonly known for spectacular monuments, magnificent artefacts, and captivating texts. Yet, beyond the fascinating beauty of "wonderful things" (H. Carter), all this enshrines plentiful information which bear witness to a great culture, its evolution, and its history. Egyptology is dedicated to unearthing, analysing, and interpreting all different kinds of sources of information; but today, research requires much more than "simply" excavating, cataloguing, or translating. The challenge is therefore to develop, fine-tune, and to apply well-established and innovative, but also interdisciplinary methodologies in order to get one step closer to what was at the core of ancient Egyptian culture.

Up-to-date research has to consider old and new material alike; and it is both formerly neglected minutiae and the new big data which may bring about decisive new insights on the small scale or even paradigmatic change on the large scale. Research of this kind always requires attention to detail, the ability to organise huge amounts of information, and the capacity to proceed with a fine-grained methodology which combines various approaches and disciplines from archaeology to archaeometry, from history of arts to pictorial sciences, from (text) philology to linguistics, from mythology to religious studies, from cultural studies to social sciences, from anthropology to the natural sciences, and far beyond. Only a plethora of details will allow successfully to address research questions, to develop hypotheses, and to piece together the big picture. In this changing and challenging research landscape, the MA and PhD students of today will shape tomorrow's Egyptology with new ways of searching, new ways of analysing, and new ways of thinking.

This workshop to be held at the University of Vienna and at the Austrian Academy of Sciences on 2–5 December 2024 aims to bring together MA and PhD students with experienced scholars and researchers in order to initiate a methodological discourse. All workshop participants are invited to reflect on their methodologies with the aid of which they conduct their research, and how they develop and adapt their tool kit. At the same time, participants are strongly encouraged to present the data or material which they investigate, how they apply their methodologies, and what new (preliminary) results they have gained so far or expect soon. We are therefore looking forward to a workshop which will allow to get a sense of what kind(s) of well-established and highly innovative methodologies are currently used and to discuss what potential there is for ongoing and future research to the benefit of all workshop participants and their work on little pieces and the big picture.

# ABSTRACTS

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

**E. Christiana Köhler** | University of Vienna

*A Mosaic of Details – The Project "Visualising an Ancient Egyptian Queen" as a Case Study for Interdisciplinary Approaches in Egyptology*

Meret-Neith was a queen of the 1st Dynasty (around 3000 BCE) who remains one of the most enigmatic historical figures of the period of state formation in Egypt. Because she is the only woman who had a monumental tomb in the Early Dynastic royal cemetery at Abydos, which was discovered by Flinders Petrie in 1899–1900, a number of questions have been raised and assumptions postulated about this woman's true significance. Was she just a royal mother as indicated in some of the contemporaneous inscriptions; was there perhaps more to her role at the royal court, or was she even a pharaoh in her own right? Since Petrie's publications and the evidentiary state of information have been inadequate to address these questions, the research project "Visualising an Ancient Egyptian Queen" was started in 2021 in a collaboration between the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, the University of Vienna, and the University of Technology in Vienna. From the beginning, the research was conceived of with multiple lines of interdisciplinary approaches in order to investigate this queen's tomb and her significance in the early state of Egypt. The project operates with a range of methods from Egyptology, archaeology, archaeological science, and digital architecture to produce a comprehensive documentation of the tomb's original inventory, taphonomic history, chronological evidence, inscriptional sources as well as the architecture and construction phases. Following its complete archaeological re-excavation over four field seasons, the project has now reached its final phase of bringing all these different methodical approaches together so as to arrive at a modern-standard archival record of evidence allowing for comprehensive analysis and interpretation.

This talk will introduce some of the key methods and approaches that have been applied over the past three years and will discuss the first results arising from three years of research.

**Selected Bibliography**

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## SESSION I: INFORMATION ENSHRINED

**Session Chair: Tamás A. Bács** | Eötvös Loránd University Budapest

**Constanze Seuchter** | University of Vienna

*How to Depict a Shrine: Palaeographic and Orthographic Studies of the Middle Kingdom Box Coffins from Beni Hassan*

The recently concluded research project "Painted for Eternity", carried out by Lubica Hudáková (University of Vienna) and Uta Siffert (University of Bonn, formerly University of Vienna), focussed on an art historical analysis of the decorative elements painted on Middle Kingdom box shaped coffins excavated in the Lower Necropolis of Beni Hassan. Throughout that study, 81 coffins and fragments, distributed to various museums and institutions, were located and further 54 coffins were identified on John Garstang's excavation photographs. Of these coffins and coffin fragments, 75 bear ornamental texts concerning the offering formula (ḥtp-dj-nswt).

The aim of my MA thesis was to investigate mainly stylistic (palaeographic and orthographic) but also grammatical changes of the offering formula among the different coffin types of the Lower Necropolis and to revise the correlation analyses between the Lower Necropolis' coffins and the tombs of the Upper Necropolis conducted independently by Harco Willems and Günther Lapp.

Seven frequently depicted hieroglyphs and their variants were chosen for the palaeographic study and nine common names and epithets were selected for the orthographic study of the offering formula inscribed on the Beni Hassan coffins. Their occurrence and changes were checked against similar studies for other Middle Kingdom sites and general studies of the offering formula and Middle Egyptian grammar. To carry out a correlation analysis between the Lower Necropolis' coffins, the Lower Necropolis' stelae, and the Upper Necropolis' tombs, all available pictures and drawings of the stelae and tombs were investigated upon the studied hieroglyphs and spellings and the context of their installation. This talk is to give a brief overview of the applied methodology and the results of the analysis.

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**Dina Serova** | Humboldt University of Berlin

*The Miniature Chapel Vienna ÄS 186 as a Case Study for Multimodality Research*

New insights from multimodality research offer a promising theoretical and methodological toolset to analyse Ancient Egyptian image-text-compositions. How this framework can be applied to the ancient material will be demonstrated through a case study: the miniature chapel Vienna ÄS 186 from Middle Kingdom Egypt (13th Dynasty, c. 1750 BC).

The term "multimodality" refers to the observation that people when communicating – both as text producers and addressees – simultaneously draw on different semiotic resources and sensory channels (visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, gustatory), both orally and in writing. As for written media, linguistic content goes hand in hand with typography, orthography, layout (also color, sign orientation, sign size) and can be accompanied by images, illustrations, or diagrams. These parameters stand in a close and complex interrelation with "space" as a semiotic resource and its aspects "scaling" and "dimensionality". Since they can clearly be observed in ancient Egyptian artifacts, their investigation constitutes a research desideratum.

As a complex free-standing monument, Vienna ÄS 186 uses space on four different levels, which will be explored in detail. Representing both a miniature version of a building and a canvas enlisting up to 60 individuals who can be attributed to different family groups, Vienna ÄS 186 presents a unique example of a complex multimodal composition. How this object was designed as an information carrier and how it fits into the general idea of stela and monument production of the late Middle Kingdom shall be put up for discussion.

**Selected Bibliography**

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## SESSION II: MULTIMODALITY AND RITUAL DISCOURSE

**Session Chair: Filip Coppens** | Charles University Prague

**Kristina Hutter** | University of Vienna

*Ritual Language under the Lens. Or, How to Detect Religious Discourse on the Micro-Level of Ritual Texts*

Scholars often rely on ancient ritual texts to explore ancient religious practices. In ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom, the Pyramid Texts' ritual character and attachment to ritual practices are evident from their recourse to ritual language. As ritual-related texts, they are situated in a multimodal environment of religious and ritual practices which impose linguistic constraints on semantic choices. While the metonymic value of their ritual contents bears an epistemic quality for approaching the religious domain, their heterogeneous character testifies to diverse pragmatic contexts.

The present talk discusses the applicability of systemic-functional and cognitive linguistic frameworks for detecting religious discourse on the micro-level of ritual-related text material exemplified in the Pyramid Texts. For approaching religious discourse within a linguistic framework, two central questions are posed: how ritual meaning emerges through the language used in ritual contexts, and how the construal of ritual agency conceptually translates into linguistic structure.

Relating to the workshop's major topic of establishing a relationship between "little pieces" and "the big picture", the talk delves into a quest to theorise the cultural context of a textual phenomenon by analysing linguistic patterns as reflections of cultural models. In line with functional linguistic considerations, it furthermore, explores how language is used to construe experiential worlds in the Pyramid Texts and thereby accommodate the human experience of death as a narrative of passage.

**Selected Bibliography**

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**Svenja K. Damm** | Humboldt University of Berlin

*New Approaches to the "Great Decree for the Igeret": Methods and Theories*

Attested on Papyrus New York MMA 35.9.21 and Papyrus Tamerit 1, this Ptolemaic ritual text from the Khoiak festival reproduces an essential section of the Osiris myth in a unique way. Interweaving two diegetic spheres, the text contains instructions for real-world actions and hymnic recitations by the temple staff, and apart from that accompanies the mummified Osiris on his imagined journey to and through the chthonic "Land of Silence". The events there are almost entirely portrayed through direct speech by deities in different relationships with Osiris, wanting to either guide him or hold him back. A common thread running through the entire text is the antonymy, yet mutual dependence, of death as a farewell and an arrival.

This linguistically heterogeneous composition holds potential for investigations into register variation, i.e., the intra-individual adaptation of language to situation and context, which manifests itself in lexicogrammar, stylistic devices, and emotionality, among other things. Further starting points are the integration of narrative passages, development of spatial concepts in immanent and transcendent settings as well as multimodality research including the papyri and accompanying scenes in the Osiris chapels of Dendera.

This PhD project aims to gain an impression of the sublime repertoire of ancient Egyptian communication strategies that combine graphic, visual, and auditive channels to guide the recipient and create atmospherically charged scenarios, possibly with the aim of a dramatic staging in ancient times.

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## SESSION III: ETERNAL IMAGES IN PERSPECTIVE

**Session Chair: Johannes Jüngling** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna


**Dominika Uhrová** | Charles University Prague

*Hidden Beauty: Architecture and Decorative Programme of Non-Royal Burial Chambers in the Memphite Necropolis during the Old Kingdom*

Decorated burial chambers of private individuals appeared for the first time during the reign of Djedkare Isesi at the end of the 5th Dynasty at Saqqara and Giza. Not long afterwards, the walls of royal burial chambers started to be decorated with the Pyramid Texts. This may be the result of the same ideological and religious developments. However, the themes and scenes in decorated burial chambers in private tombs fundamentally differ from royal concepts. Burial chambers of private individuals have mostly figurative scenes that are never present in royal substructures. Generally, the decorative repertoire consists of an offering list, depictions of food and drink offerings, and burial equipment.

Decorated burial chambers are very few in comparison with the undecorated ones. This phenomenon ended at the beginning of the Middle Kingdom when the emphasis shifted to wooden coffins and wooden models of daily life.

Based on the 101 decorated burial chambers located in the Memphite necropolis, this study aims to examine the distribution and composition of the elements comprising the decorative programme of non-royal burial chambers and the development of the decoration scheme and the architectural layout of the burial chambers throughout the Old Kingdom.

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**Lonneke Delpeut** | University of Vienna

*Agricultural Scenes in 18th Dynasty Private Tombs in Thebes:*
*A Study in Visual Rhetorics*

The aim of this project is to shed light on how the ancient Egyptians constructed the messages that they meant to convey in the decorative programmes of elite tomb chapels. This goal is achieved by identifying the various elements these images consist of and by assessing how these elements contribute to the creation of messages individually and as a result of their correlation and combination. In this project, these questions are addressed based on a corpus of agricultural scenes in 18th Dynasty tomb chapels in the Theban necropolis. Since the purpose of the images dictates their content and appearance, the primary function of the tomb depictions as a medium of remembrance and projection of identity is a vital point in this study. The project recognises three different components: the image rendering, the image content, and the image referent. This project is based on the essential premise that the analysis of meaning production should always start from – and never lose sight of – questions of form, which is why it will take image rendering as a starting point. By studying how messages are composed in each of the three aforementioned levels, we should get a better understanding of the visual rhetorics of (or that stood behind) image making in ancient Egyptian tomb chapels.

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## SESSION IV: REGISTERS IN PHILOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS

**Session Chair: Elisabeth Kruck** | University of Vienna

**Tobias B. Paul** | Humboldt University of Berlin

*Towards a Register-Focused Framework for Analysing Language Change*

The core assumption of register theory is that linguistic features serve communicative functions, meaning that certain features become common in a language register because they are functionally adapted to its communicative purposes and situational contexts. This assumption also applies to language change phenomena as they manifest in textual evidence from Ancient Egypt.

A possible framework to explore how register choices and language change are interconnected in Ancient Egyptian texts involves four key steps:

(1) identifying new forms and compiling a corpus of all extant text types from Old to Late Egyptian featuring these forms, focusing on early textual attestations, based on raw data from the Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae,

(2) annotating the texts based on extralinguistic factors – such as situational, temporal and spatial contexts of communication – and according to the parameters from Systemic Functional Linguistics, i.e., social roles (Tenor), communicative purposes (Field), and modes of communication (Mode),

(3) applying Multi-Dimensional Analysis (MDA) – a method from quantitative corpus linguistics introduced to register studies by Biber (1989) – to quantify the frequency of co-occurring features and group them into dimensions, and

(4) interpreting these dimensions functionally to understand how language change phenomena correspond to specific situational contexts.

Given our limited cultural knowledge of Ancient Egyptian texts, MDA offers an empirical, bottom-up approach. By analysing linguistic co-occurrence patterns in a corpus and employing statistical methods, MDA helps avoid pre-conceived notions about which features or functions are most pertinent. This approach allows for the preconception-free identification of registers and their correlation with linguistic

changes, possibly providing deeper insights into how register variation and language change intertwine in Ancient Egyptian.

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**Frank Kammerzell** | Humboldt University of Berlin

*Implicit Register Attributions in the Translations of Egyptian Texts*

A TEXT produced in a particular communicative situation (whether spoken, signed, written, pictorial, or multimodal) may exhibit both systemic and non-systemic features that are predominant or even exclusive to a specific type of situations. Providing information about the TEXT genre, the relationship between interactants, and the communicative intent of the text producer, such context-specific characteristics are often diagnostic for a register. It goes without saying that the relations between certain linguistic features and the register they help to constitute depend on the individual language in question and the communicative conventions of the respective linguistic community. One and the same phenomenon can perform completely different functions in different communicative settings.

Using some examples of modern translations of Egyptian texts, we show the consequences of not taking adequate account of the asymmetries between the reg-

ister-indexing functions of superficially similar elements in the source and target languages.

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## SESSION V: ENTANGLEMENTS OF CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY

**Session Chair: Peter Jánosi** | University of Vienna

**Johannes Jüngling** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

*Dates and Phyles: New Considerations on the Chronology of the Late 5th and Early 6th Dynasties as Reflected in the Abusir Papyri*

As one of the largest source corpora of hieratic texts from the Old Kingdom, the papyri retrieved from the pyramid temples of Neferirkara and Raneferef are an indispensable tool for research into the daily cult as well as temple economics and the historical chronology of the late 5th and early 6th Dynasties. With 44 individual date inscriptions mentioning regnal years, the archives have a lot to contribute to the latter both in terms of quantity and quality, and despite specifically dedicated studies (e.g., Verner 2001, 2006, and 2008, Gautschy et alii 2017, and Nolan 2015), their true potential is far from exhausted.

This presentation will concentrate on some crucial documents from the corpus, reinvestigate them, and put extant theories to the test of rigorous and detail-oriented philological scrutiny. Thereby, the reading (and reconstruction) of inscriptions containing regnal years will be challenged, as will be the method of extrapolating rotational schedules for priestly phyles in order to validate models of regnal-year alternations within the frame of the Old Kingdom system of cattle counts (*rnp.t zp* "year of the occasion" vs. *rnp.t m-ḫt zp* "year after the occasion").

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**Julian Posch** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

*Can't We Get Rid of Dynasties?*

The concept of dynasties is fundamental to all discussions concerning the history of ancient Egypt. The term "dynasties" was first introduced to ancient Egypt by the priest Manetho during the Ptolemaic Period, when he classified the Egyptian kings into 30 groups. In modern times, this framework has been further complemented with the information gathered from other king-lists, mainly of the New Kingdom, as well as contemporaneous sources. All sources combined form the backbone of the historical chronology of ancient Egypt. Traditionally, dynasties have been interpreted as royal families; however, this view does not apply universally to all Egyptian dynasties. It is therefore assumed that other criteria may have influenced how these groups were initially formed.

Despite its central role in Egyptology, the concept of "dynasty" has not been studied in detail. This presentation aims to address this gap by exploring the etymology of the term "dynasty" and by examining its historical application. Through case studies focusing on the First to the Second Intermediate Periods, this presentation will investigate possible explanations for the formation of dynastic divisions. Additionally, a specific case study will explore how dynastic divisions may be used in ways that go beyond a simple categorisation of kings.

This analysis will provide a more nuanced understanding of dynastic groupings in Ancient Egyptian history.

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## SESSION VI: HOLY BIRDS AND SACRED SCENES

**Session Chair: Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz** | University of Warsaw

**Camilla Persi** | Eötvös Loránd University Budapest and Humboldt University of Berlin

*The Rise of the Human-Headed Bird: The Visual Origins of and New Kingdom Perspectives on the Ba-Bird*

Historically, the iconographical questions concerning the *ba* have garnered less attention than its religious, philological, and anthropological dimensions. In particular, scholars have never debated the "sudden" visual materialisation of the *ba*-bird at the beginning of the New Kingdom, despite the fact that this concept had existed in the non-royal religious sphere since at least the Middle Kingdom. Moreover, there has never been a comprehensive examination of its relatively confident visual establishment and subsequent artistic variety in the material culture from the New Kingdom onwards.

This investigation primarily aims to refute old hypotheses about the origins of the *ba*-bird's visual form and to reveal its profound connections to the previously unknown figure of the human-headed vulture. This concept, present since the Old Kingdom, was subsequently visually, and likely conceptually, incorporated into the New Kingdom *ba*-bird. By stressing such continuity, I hope to clarify the path of the visual conceptualisation of the *ba*, which progressed alongside its religious evolution and later full establishment within the New Kingdom framework.

Furthermore, the second part of my research aims to investigate the variety and applications of the *ba*-bird concept in New Kingdom material culture by clarifying its contexts, uses, and further meanings, thereby highlighting its flexibility as well as its canonicity.

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**Filip Coppens** | Charles University Prague

### *A Detail in the Mosaic: Anomalies in Scenes from Ptolemaic and Roman Temples*

The walls of traditional Egyptian temples during Ptolemaic and Roman times are covered from top to bottom with a vast plethora of cultic reliefs. Scene upon scene, register upon register, the Ptolemaic basileus or Roman emperor is continuously portrayed performing the role of the traditional pharaoh, whether offering a diverse variety of produce, executing acts of ritual slaying upon men and beast alike, or participating in multiple festivities throughout the year. The overall result is a seemingly elaborate mosaic of individual scenes with recurring features, involving the king in front of a multitude of deities.

The apparent likeness one is able to observe in individual scenes depicting a similar ritual act is disturbed occasionally by a little detail that suggests that not everything is what it seems. The unexpected absence, a peculiar alteration, or the odd presence of a feature in text or image always presents an enigma worth investigating. In this lecture, I would like to discuss such an instance in more detail and uncover the story behind such an anomaly. The starting point are two reliefs: one from the bark sanctuary of Alexander III in the core of the Luxor temple, another one from the "Seat of the First Feast" in the Isis temple on Philae Island from the reign of Ptolemy II, and the unexpected absence/presence of a staircase on these two scenes.

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## SESSION VII: READING AND UNDERSTANDING ANCIENT EGYPT

**Session Chair: Hana Vymazalová** | Charles University Prague

**Kristina Hülk** | Humboldt University of Berlin

### *On the Use and Function of Deictic Gaze and Pointing Gestures in Ancient Egyptian and Sudanese Art*

Deictic or indexical expressions can be used in spoken language and in texts to refer to persons, objects, places, and times in the context of the respective communicative situation. On a non-verbal level, it is above all gaze and pointing gestures that operate as multimodal deictic signs, which can also be found in static visual representations in ancient Egypt and Sudan.

This presentation will discuss the use and function of these gaze and pointing gestures in connection with other formal semiotic resources that are significantly involved in the constitution of meaning of a multimodal text on different levels. Concerning the visual level of textual layout, it is demonstrated how the figurative representations executed in a deliberate manner as well as their effect on a potential beholder contribute to the information organisation of the multimodal text. Furthermore, a focus is set on the interpersonal level. Attention-directing and information-structuring effects of visual perceptible deictic gaze and pointing gestures in the relief decoration on recipients is discussed, and how this specifically guides the attention of potential viewers in a specific communicative situation is analysed.

Methodologically, I draw on social semiotic approaches of multimodality that are concerned with the investigation of meaning-making through all kinds of sign systems and semiotic resources.

The research field is attached to the works of Halliday, who introduced social semiotics into linguistics. In order to discuss the functional and communicative effect of gaze and pointing gestures, this approach is supplemented by works on indexical or deictic signs.

This study aims to demonstrate that deictic gaze and pointing gestures request the viewer actively to be part in the interaction and open up a shared space for interaction and joint attention.

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**Charlotte Dietrich** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

*A Household Name: A Close Reading of Nefertiti's Cartouches*

In the course of Akhenaten's reign, the cartouche of his King's Great Wife Nefertiti underwent several changes, first in the orthography of *Nfr.t-ỉji.tj* (replacing ⚊ [V13] with 𓊁 [U33]) and later by an extension with *Nfr-nfr.w-'Itn*. While this basic relative chronology is well known and widely accepted, many aspects of this name and its development have not yet been studied in detail. In particular, the historical dating of these changes has remained vague. Therefore, this presentation aims to sharpen the chronological framework of the development through historical dating.

Furthermore, the inversion of parts of the hieroglyphic material within the cartouche has been a matter of debate, as scholars have variously assumed that either one sign, one square block of hieroglyphs, or one component of the name had been reversed. Using a comprehensive typology, this presentation will analyse patterns of inversion in royal cartouches in general, but in Nefertiti's in particular, in order to explain various hieroglyphic arrangements of the same name.

Finally, the possible classification of *Nfr-nfr.w-'Itn* as either an epithet or part of the name proper of Nefertiti is discussed, taking into account the relevance and contemporaneous use of both components of the name, and considering the order in which the components of the name should be read.

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## SESSION VIII: OF MEAN BEASTS AND MYSTERIOUS REALMS

**Session Chair: Annik Wüthrich** | Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Kris Molčan** | Charles University Prague

*Animal Behaviour and Egyptology: The Nile Softshell Turtle (Trionyx triunguis) in the Context of the sm3 št3 Ritual Scenes*

The mythological landscape of the ancient Egyptian civilisation was shaped by close analogies with the local fauna, flora, and natural phenomena. This trend is especially perceptible in relation to animals, as it were often very specific behaviours or visual elements the species displayed that became imprinted upon the mosaics of human mythological beliefs. This is also the case with scenes depicting the ritual *sm3 št3* ("Slaying the Turtle"), a corpus of 13 apotropaic reliefs located on the walls of several Ptolemaic and Roman temples, in which the ethology and morphology of the involved species provide valuable information on the ritual. The Nile softshell turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) – the negative agent of the studied ritual – presents an interesting showcase of behavioural patterns and physical attributes that are in close dynamic connection to the ancient concept of apotropaia.

This presentation (and simultaneously my MA thesis) therefore aims to analyse and explain the antagonistic role of this riverine turtle observed in the corpus under study, as this perception is apparent both in the animal's portrayal in the reliefs and its description throughout the accompanying textual material. An important aspect of this research represents the multidisciplinary connection between zoology and historical studies: a combination of greatest interest within the setting of ancient Egypt where natural agents function as mediators between the realms of men and supernatural beings.

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**Roman Gundacker** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

*From Text Philology to Linguistics, from Ancient Geography to Palaeoclimatology, and Back: What "Ältere Komposita" Can Tell about the Geographical Horizon of Egyptians in the Third Millennium BC*

Among the farthest geographical entities known to the Egyptians, the five oceans are of particular interest as their names belong to the very special morphological category of "Ältere Komposita". This outstanding kind of compound nouns is defined by special vocalisation and stress patterns, which to identify poses a real linguistic challenge. However, since "Ältere Komposita" only flourished until the end of the third millennium BC, but then ceased to be created, all such compounds – and what they denote – must have had their place in the Egyptians' world and mindset of the third millennium BC. Yet, where did the Egyptians encounter five oceans?

Addressing this question is delicate because ancient Egypt is often viewed as a riverine oasis, isolated by itself and sealed off from other peoples and realms through impenetrable desert wastelands. This is certainly the result of the common, though objectionable, projection of today's climate and environmental conditions into the remote past, which raises the even more delicate questions of what the climate and environment may have looked like in the third millennium BC, and where substantial bodies of water may have existed which since have disappeared.

Auspiciously, a few texts and other sources have come down by coincidence of preservation which signal that the ancient Egyptians of the third millennium BC were eager to engage in a dense network of relations far beyond the margins of the Nile basin and to widen their geographical horizon to the shores of the five oceans.

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## SESSION IX: THE OBJECT IN THE MIRROR

**Session Chair: Julian Posch** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

**Zuzana Nevyjelová** | Charles University Prague

*Objects from the Non-Elite Secondary Cemetery of Khuwy's Tomb*

Khuwy's tomb at South Saqqara, excavated in recent years by the archaeological mission of the "Djedkare Project", is surrounded by a secondary cemetery. This material shows continuity in the tradition of people choosing the vicinity of royal and other important elite tombs for their own burials. Just as the royal pyramids of the Old Kingdom attracted elite tombs, both pyramids and said elite tombs later attracted the non-elite population of the area to create their own cemeteries close to those structures. The secondary cemetery around Khuwy's tomb represents a part of a much larger secondary cemetery, which up until now includes graves excavated around the pyramids of the king and the queen themselves, as well as around the neighbouring tomb of Isesiankh.

This presentation will focus on the material from the area of Khuwy's tomb, more specifically on the objects of burial assemblages found within this cemetery. The cemetery yielded numerous finds from both within and outside burial contexts. These predominantly date to the New Kingdom or later times and give insight into the non-elite population of that area in those periods. Furthermore, a few selected objects from the vast corpus will be discussed because of their peculiar nature.

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**Diána Kulisz** | Eötvös Loránd University and Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

*Dating Methods of Ancient Egyptian Mirrors*

As with other objects of minor arts, we can find ancient Egyptian mirrors which lack an exact archaeological context. Nevertheless, we know some methods with the help of which we can gain better knowledge of an artefact without provenience. I aim to exemplify these methods of history of arts (morphology, iconography, and stylistics) as well as of the natural sciences (among others, material composition analysis) through case studies dealing with unprovenanced bronze mirrors. By getting information from objects with known context, by relying on iconographically homogeneous groups of objects, and by referring to stylistically and technologically related objects (i.e., by preparing classifications, object categories, etc.), we can determine with fairly good certainty the regions or cities of origin of objects without context. In certain cases, even the possibility of defining a specific workshop may emerge.

On occasion, we can find foreign symbols or stylistic features on certain objects; consequently, influences from neighboring cultures and territories, such as Nubia or the Levant, can be defined. In provincial workshops, far from the canon of Egyptian centres, atypical, sometimes composite iconographic designs can be found.

All these aspects can also provide chronological information. The evolution of symbols and ornaments or stylistic characteristics can help to define with high probability a fairly narrow time period for an object's production.

In parallel to all these, natural scientific methods (radiography, microscopy, X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy) can underpin conclusions of art historical methods or, in the case of atypical objects, when the suspicion of Egyptianising or forged objects of modern production emerges, the data obtained with the help of, e.g., material composition analysis can help to decide on an object's authenticity.

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**SESSION X: PATTERNS OF TEXT COMPOSITION AND TEXT ANALYSIS**

**Session Chair: Frank Kammerzell** | Humboldt University of Berlin

**Alfred Hutter** | University of Vienna

*Recording the Meaning and Systematics of "Parallelstellen" in the Text Structure of the Pyramid Texts*

The Pyramid Texts first appear in the archaeological record of ancient Egypt in the 24th century BCE. The corpus comprises over 900 utterances (PT 1–806) that are regularly marked as individual texts. Egyptologists, in turn, have divided each utterance into smaller sections, which are either continuously numbered as paragraphs (K. Sethe) or, restarting with each utterance, as lines (J. Allen). These sections are established within the Egyptological numbering systems and tend to correlate with the length of clauses; however, they regularly comprise more than one proposition, hinting at a microstructure beneath. Their propositional significance lies in the phenomenon of parallel passages, the so-called "Parallelstellen", referencing passages that occur in different contexts across the source material. The wider implication of "Parallelstellen" is that a specific spectrum of reoccurring phraseology serves as the phraseological and structural basis for the whole corpus. While scholars have approached the topic of "Parallelstellen" in different ways but, despite their significance for the text structure of Pyramid Texts and their later developments, especially the Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead, they have not yet been fully explored.

The present talk is based on an ongoing PhD dissertation and engages with "Parallelstellen" in the Pyramid Texts in three ways:
(1) issues of definition,
(2) the comprehensiveness of a collection, and
(3) the possibilities of creating a typology.

A linguistic evaluation regarding the formulaic nature, variables in the contextual embedding, and text development allows to assess the bigger picture of "Parallelstellen" in the compositional structure of Pyramid Text utterances.

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**Jakub Tusiński** | University of Warsaw

*Is It Possible to Teach an Old Dog Some New Tricks? "Skopostheorie", Hermeneutic Approach, and Egyptology*

The primary purpose of this presentation is to discuss the most important aspects of translation in the Functional Equivalence Approach, as well as "Skopostheorie" and how it applies in practice to Egyptology. An example of the Koptos B Decree will be used to highlight the problem. The Koptos B Decree itself was translated by the author in three different ways, which will be analysed during the presentation.

Each of the three translations of the Koptos B Decree is an original creation of the author, based on the theoretical notions presented beforehand. Associated advantages and disadvantages, as well as their uses, are going to be investigated. These translations were created for the purposes of the author's BA thesis in Egyptology. Their differences will be examined, and the different cultural and translational phenomena they embody will be pointed out. Furthermore, the role of the translator will be analysed.

As this presentation is prepared in the spirit of the Hermeneutic Approach, the translator is to be compared to a guide whose role it is to steer the reader towards an adequate interpretation of the source text. As such, the transfer of ideas preserved in the original was the main drive of all translation choices performed by the author. The author of a translation, in this approach, becomes equalled to a co-author of the text, which highlights the importance of such a role. In the opinion of the author, such is true not only for modern texts but also ancient, including those which are analysed and translated by Egyptologists.

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## SESSION XI: THE MARVELS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

**Session Chair: Vera Müller** | Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Tamás A. Bács** | Eötvös Loránd University Budapest

*Texts and Images in Theban Tomb 65: Some Recent Observations*

Among the rock-cut tombs examined by the "Hungarian Archaeological Mission in Thebes", Theban Tomb 65 stands out due to its distinctive and unusual decorative and textual programme. Dating to the later part of the 20th Dynasty, this programme was designed for – and notably by – its owner, Imiseba, the chief archivist of Karnak temple. What makes it even more significant is the involvement of Amenhotep, son of Amunnakht, the chief draughtsman of Deir el-Medina at the time, in its creation.

A fascinating assortment of textual and visual elements were incorporated into the tomb's design, providing a chance to explore not only the origins of these materials but also how they were adapted – deliberately or otherwise – during their integration. Consequently, this raises important questions about the methods of transmission used in this creative process.

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**Hana Vymazalová** | Charles University Prague
**Mohamed Megahed** | Charles University Prague

### *Beautiful Journey! The Scene of the Journey to the West in the Tomb of Khuwy at Djedkare's Royal Necropolis*

The tomb of Khuwy at Djedkare's royal necropolis at South Saqqara provides evidence of innovations in non-royal tomb decoration which can be understood as the results of transformations of funerary beliefs during Djedkare's reign. The most obvious innovation is the decoration in the tomb substructure, which belongs to the earliest examples of its kind (Megahed and Vymazalová 2019; cf. also, e.g., Kanawati 2010). The decoration of the substructure can be studied from various perspectives, including for instance the techniques of the artists (Pieke 2021; Pieke and Vymazalová forthcoming) and (specific) iconographic features (e.g., Vymazalová 2022).

This presentation will focus on one of the themes depicted in the substructure, namely the so-called "Journey to the West" (Oxford Expedition to Egypt (OEE), Scene-Details Database; Linacre College, Oxford 2006). This scene, which is repeated twice in the substructure, shows a procession of four boats heading towards the realm of the dead, with the deceased Khuwy depicted on one of the boats actively sailing. Above the boats, there are carvings of the songs of his boatmen, which make reference to the Golden Goddess.

This motif appears in textual form only in royal pyramids. In another form, however, it can be traced in the non-royal sphere as well, namely in several Old-Kingdom tombs. Khuwy's depictions are the earliest such attestation; probably predating the first carved Pyramid Texts. It is a valuable indication of the transformation of funerary beliefs in the non-royal sphere in the late 5th Dynasty.

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## SESSION XII: EGYPTOLOGY YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

**Session Chair: Charlotte Dietrich** | Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna

**Kamil O. Kuraszkiewicz** | University of Warsaw

### *Egyptology Is Dead? Long Live Egyptology?*

The term "Egyptology" is relatively straightforward to define, encompassing the study of the ancient civilisation of Egypt through its history, languages, literature, religion, art, and archaeology. However, the question of its relevance in the modern era is decidedly more complex. Can research conducted within this self-contained discipline, which focuses on long-gone epochs, still be considered valid in a world that increasingly values contemporaneous narratives and lived experiences? What, if anything, can Egyptology contribute to our understanding of contemporaneous civilisation and its challenges?

Since its inception in the 19th century, Egyptology has been predominantly practiced by Western scholars, who have often approached ancient Egypt from an external perspective. This raises critical inquiries about the limitations of such an approach and invites consideration of whether other methodologies – particularly those that voice non-European perspectives – are possible and valid.

I will pose these essential questions, recognising that, while we may not arrive at definitive answers, the exploration itself can illuminate new pathways for inquiry and understanding. By engaging with these topics, we can better appreciate the potential of Egyptology to enrich and modernise our discourse as well as to foster a deeper connection with a civilisation that continues to resonate across time.

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On invitation of E. Christiana Köhler (editor in-chief), all workshop participants are encouraged to submit their papers for publication. This invitation expressly extends to all PhD students and other junior presenters of this CENTRAL Joint Workshop.

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**This**

**CENTRAL JOINT WORKSHOP**

**CENTRAL**

**has been organised by:**

**Roman Gundacker** | University of Vienna
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**Tamás A. Bács** | Eötvös Loránd University Budapest
**Hana Vymazalová** | Charles University Prague
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