



I N S C R I B E
INVENTION OF SCRIPTS
AND THEIR BEGINNINGS

12th-15th January 2021 (13.30-16.50)

INVENTION OF WRITING

Production of Images and Language Notation

INSCRIBE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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This workshop will examine, from different disciplinary perspectives, the relationship between the production of figurative images and the invention of writing, considering uncertain cases (Indus Valley, Easter Island) as well as Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, China and Egypt.

The event is articulated into four main themes. *Is Iconography a Springboard for Writing?* approaches iconography as catalyst for writing inventions from the perspective of archaeology and anthropology. *The Dawn of Writing* focuses on iconicity in early potential pristine inventions and their converging or diverging trajectories. *More Recent Inventions* follows up on more recent, if disputed, *loci* for invention (Nahuatl and West Africa scripts) and addresses their relationship to images. Finally, *Non-Iconic Geometric Signs* considers a poorly understood avenue of analysis of early scripts, namely their geometric, schematic, or low iconicity sign repertoires.

ORGANISING SECRETARIAT

 **PLANNING**

Planning Congressi srl

This event is part of project INSCRIBE (INvention of SCRIPTs and their Beginnings), that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement No. 771127)



The Conference will be live on Zoom
https://www.inscriberproject.com/workshop/workshop_home.php





Tuesday, 12 January 2021

13:30 *Welcome by the INSCRIBE Team*

Is Iconography a Springboard for Writing?

14:00 The Deep Foundations of Writing Systems: Neuroarchaeology, Neurorecycling, and Pattern Perception
Derek Hodgson Independent scholar

14:40 Solving the Puzzle of Ideography
Olivier Morin Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena
Discussion (10')

15:30 Egyptian Predynastic Iconography and Early Hieroglyphic Writing: What Kind of Relationship?
Gwenola Graff Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Marseille

16:10 On the Periphery: Communicative Practices and Signs at the Dawn of Writing in Mesopotamia
Jennifer Ross Hood College, Frederick, Maryland
Discussion (10')

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

The Dawn of Writing

14:00 Crafting a Writing System: Insights on the Invention and First Developments of the Indus Script
Dennys Frenez International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, Rome

14:40 Iconicity and Early Phoneticization in Egyptian Writing, c. 3100 BCE
Andréas Stauder École Pratique des Hautes Études, Université Paris Sciences et Lettres
Discussion (10')

15:30 The Beginnings of the Chinese Writing
Françoise Bottéro CNRS, Paris

16:10 Maya Writing between Tradition and Innovation: Diachronic and Synchronous Approaches to Understanding Graphemic and Graphetic Principles in a Two-Thousand-Year History of Writing in the Americas
Christian Prager University of Bonn

16:50 Discussion (10')

Thursday, 14 January 2021

More Recent Inventions

14:00 The Dynamics of Iconicity in Emergent Scripts
Piers Kelly University of New England

14:40 Texts as Images: Observations on Teotihuacan 'Emblematic Writing' and its Reception in the Maya Area
Davide Domenici University of Bologna

15:20 The Controversial Relationship between Aztec Iconography and Writing
Gordon Whittaker University of Göttingen
Discussion (10')

16:10 The Rongorongo Script
Konstantin Pozdniakov Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris

16:50 Evidence for Language Notation in the Rongorongo Script
Miguel Valério University of Bologna
Discussion (10')

Friday, 15 January 2021

Iconic vs non-Iconic Signs

14:00 To What Extent is Linear A 'Linear'?
Barbara Montecchi University of Bologna

14:40 Iconic Signs in a Non-Iconic Writing System: Khipus with Potatoes, Feathers, Figurines and Other Objects
Sabine Hyland
Discussion (10')

15:30 Optional and Ephemeral Iconicity in the History of Writing Systems
Alex de Voogt Drew University

16:10 The Nature of Language and Music
Mark Changizi Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Florida

16:50 *Final Discussion and Virtual Aperitivo*

