

Book-objects at the Crossroads of Bibliography and Philology

Co-organized by:

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Abstract:

Our virtual roundtable will discuss how the “material turn” in the humanities has impacted the fields of bibliography and philology across the world. Insofar as bibliography and philology both exhibit deep-seated interests in the study of book-objects, how have these two disciplines been influenced by the “material turn”? By reappraising the philosophical outlook and transformative potential of the “material turn” in the humanities, we are keen to interrogate the political and ethical possibilities of critical inquiry in bibliography and philology.

Although the disciplinary histories of bibliography and philology are deeply implicated in the colonialist and capitalist expansion of Western imperial powers across Australasia, Africa, and the Americas; both disciplines have crafted their self-understandings and self-representations as if they are “objective” sciences, unaffected by the material, political, and ideological conditions of their production. Yet the two disciplines have often been practiced in divergent ways, with only limited exchange of critical ideas and philosophies. Given their connected histories and frequently divergent disciplinary perspectives, this roundtable will examine how bibliography and philology have attended to the ethical and political bases of their knowledge production in the wake of the “material turn.”

Participants:

Theodore S. Beers is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Seminar for Semitic and Arabic Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Jeremiah Coogan is an Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, Berkeley, California.

Andrew Hui is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Yale-NUS College, Singapore.

Cat Lambert is an Assistant Professor of Classics at Cornell University.

Pranav Prakash is a Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church and Associate Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford.

Nur Sobers-Khan is the Head of Curatorial Collections and Exhibitions at the Museums Commission, Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia.

Date: January 19, 2024

Time: 9:00 PST / 12:00 EST / 17:00 GMT / 18:00 CET / 20:00 AST

Registration Link: <http://tinyurl.com/bdfmdefs>.