

Exploring the Syriac Galen Palimpsest

**Thursday 31 October - Friday 1 November 2019
Historic Reading Room, The John Rylands
Library, University of Manchester**

Convenors:

Dr Naima Afif, University of Manchester

Professor Siam Bhayro, University of Exeter

Professor Peter E Pormann, University of Manchester

Professor William I Sellers, University of Manchester

Dr Natalia Smelova, University of Manchester



The British Academy

Day 1: Thursday 31 October 2019

Session 1: Syriac medicine

Chair: Dr Sebastian P Brock FBA (University of Oxford)

- 09:00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 09:15 Professor Siam Bhayro (University of Exeter)
Studying the Syriac Medical Traditions: the Mesopotamian and Classical Greek Legacies
- 10:15 Professor Peter E Pormann (University of Manchester)
The Alexandrian Tradition: New Discoveries of Gesius' Galen Commentaries in Syriac
- 11:15 *Refreshments*
- 11:30 Dr Grigory Kessel (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria / University of Manchester)
A Fragment from a Syriac Herbal Preserved in the Palimpsest Sinai Arabic 514
- 12:30 Dr Fabian Käs (University of Cologne, Germany)
Studies on a tabular summary of Galen's *On Simple Drugs* ascribed to Ḥunayn (*Jawāmi' Kitāb Jālīnūs fī l-adwīya al-mufrada*)
- 13:30 *Lunch*
- ### Session 2: Galen and his Simples
- Chair: Professor Peter E Pormann (University of Manchester)
- 14:15 Dr Caroline Petit (University of Warwick)
Galen, *Simples*, and Intellectual History
- 15:15 Professor John Wilkins (University of Exeter)
Clarification and Systematisation in Pharmacology: Galen, *Simples* 1–5, with a Note on the Greek Tradition
- 16:15 *Refreshments*
- 16:30 Dr Véronique Boudon-Millot (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, France)
Apport de la tradition syriaque pour éditer deux traités de Galien: *Facultés des médicaments simples* et *Facultés des aliments*

Day 2: Friday 1 November 2019

Session 3: Palimpsest Studies

Chair: Dr Mark Dickinson (University of Manchester)

- 09:00 Professor Uwe Bergmann (SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, USA / Stanford University, USA)
Synchrotron-Rapid Scan X-ray Fluorescence Imaging of the Syriac Galen Palimpsest
- 10:00 Professor William I Sellers (University of Manchester)
Dimensional Reduction and Machine Learning Methods in Palimpsest Studies
- 11:00 *Refreshments*
- 11:15 Dr Abigail Quandt (The Walters Art Museum, USA)
A Tale of Two Palimpsests: the Role of Conservation in Revealing the Lost Words of Archimedes and Galen
- 12:15 Michael Toth (RB Toth Associates, USA)
Integrating Imaging Technologies to Reveal the Unseen in the Syriac Galen Palimpsest
- 13:15 *Lunch*

Session 4: The Syriac Galen Palimpsest

Chair: Professor John Healey FBA (University of Manchester)

- 14:00 Dr Matteo Martelli (Università di Bologna, Italy)
Galen's *Simple Drugs* in the Syriac Alchemical Tradition
- 15:00 Dr Lucia Raggetti (Università di Bologna, Italy)
Galenic Pharmacology as a Source for Abū Bakr al-Rāzī's *Book of Occult Properties (Kitāb al-Ḥawāṣṣ)*
- 16:00 *Refreshments*
- 16:15 Dr Naima Afif and Dr Natalia Smelova (University of Manchester)
Towards a Critical Edition of the Syriac Translation of Galen's *Simples*