



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE & SOCIETY



Textual Amulets of the Mediterranean World: 1000 BCE - 1000 CE

May 9-10, 2024

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society
The University of Chicago

May 20, 2024

Via Zoom only



Thursday, May 9

[Join via Zoom >](#)

1:15 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Christopher Faraone (University of Chicago)

Session I

Chair: Carolina López-Ruiz (University of Chicago)

1:30 p.m.

Anke Ilona Blöbaum (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig)

“The Oracular Amuletic Decrees: Divine Protection and Prevention as Life Insurance”

2:10 p.m.

Madadh Richey (Brandeis University)

“The Dramatis Personae of a Phoenician Amulet from Arslan Tash”

2:50 p.m.

Coffee Break

Session II

Chair: Sofia Torallas Tovar (University of Chicago)

3:10 p.m.

Megan Nutzman (Old Dominion University)

“What Makes an Amulet Textual? Samaritan Rings and Pendants as a Case Study”

3:50 p.m.

Árpád Nagy (University of Pécs, Hungary)

“Magical Gems with Inscriptions: How Do Medium and Text Shape One Another?”



Friday, May 10

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Session III

Chair: Anthony Kaldellis (University of Chicago)

- 9:00 a.m. **Rivka Elitzur-Leiman** (Fordham University)
“Angels, Books, and Magic: Back to ‘The Book of Mysteries’”
- 9:40 a.m. **Erin Walsh** (University of Chicago)
“Syriac Amulets as Reflected in Literary Texts”
- 10:20 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 10:40 a.m. **Panagiota Sarischouli** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
“Pre-Classical, Classical, and Hellenistic Textual Amulets vs. Textual Amulets of the Roman Empire”
- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch Break**

Session IV

Chair: Margaret Mitchell (University of Chicago)

- 1:00 p.m. **Joe Sanzo** (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)
“Critical Reflections on the Category ‘Scripture’ for the Study of Late Antique Amulets”
- 1:40 p.m. **Korshi Dosoo** (University of Würzburg)
“‘No Unclean Spirit Will Be Able to Approach’: The History of an Apotropaic Phrase in Early Christian Amulets”
- 2:20 p.m. **Michael Zellmann-Rohrer** (Macquarie University/ Freie Universität Berlin)
“Prescription and Performance: Inscription and Accompanying Ritual in Byzantine Textual Amulets”
- 3:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion**
Moderator: Clifford Ando (University of Chicago)



Monday, May 20

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Session 5

- 9:00 a.m. **Anastasia Maravela** (University of Oslo)
“The Poetics of Late Antique Phylacteries
and the Poetics of Christian Prayer:
Comparative Perspectives”
- 9:40 a.m. **Paolo Vitellozzi** (Liceo “Jacopone da Todi,” Italy)
“Words Set in Stone: Text and Image on Magical
Gemstone Amulets of the Imperial Period”
- 10:20 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Raquel Martín Hernández** (Complutense University,
Madrid)
“Gems That Please the Gods. The Use of Stones as
Amulets in Greco-Roman Sacrifice”
- 11:10 a.m. **Attilio Mastrocinque** (University of Verona,
Emeritus)
“Jewish Divine Names on Pagan Magical Gems”

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