



SIGN & SYMBOL

SYMBOLOG & SIGN

in Comparative
Perspective



22-24.06.2026

University of Warsaw
Faculty of Modern Languages
Dobra Street 55,
room: 3.120

WRITING BETWEEN BODY, TEXTILE, AND IDENTITY: MATERIAL SIGNS BEYOND LANGUAGE

Moderator: Gordon Whittaker

9.30 **Opening**

10.00 **Signs of blood: a semiotic exploration of Andean weaving designs as the externalisation of female blood**

Denise Y. Arnold (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

10.35 **Woven messages: non-writing communication codes in Ancient Greek myths**

Małgorzata Zadka (University of Wrocław)

11.10 **30 min coffee break**

11.40 **The unexpected self: materialising identity in ancient Egyptian texts and scripts**

Angela McDonald (University of Glasgow)

12.15 **Graphetic Hybridity in Dongba Manuscripts: Negotiating Indigenous and Sinographic Sign Systems**

Zhou Yin (INALCO / Chongqing Jiaotong University)

12.50 **lunch break**

WHAT IS WRITING? BOUNDARIES, DEFINITIONS, AND THE LIMITS OF THE GRAPHIC SIGN

Moderator: Agnieszka Brylak

- 15.00 **Beyond the Line: Rethinking the Normativity of Linearity in Writing Systems**
Dimitrios Meletis (University of Vienna)
- 15.35 **Directionality and the study of “writing”**
Pippa Steele (University of Cambridge)
- 16.10 **The Scripts of the Rosetta Stone**
Filip Taterka (Polish Academy of Sciences)
- 16.45 **30 min coffee break**
- 17.15 **About the complementary relation of image and glottography in the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic system**
Dániel Takács (University of Warsaw)
- 17.50 **Can we define writing?**
Katarzyna Mikulska (University of Warsaw)

TUESDAY 23.06.2026 | morning

SCRIPT CHANGE, CONTACT, AND THE LIFE OF GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Moderator: Dániel Takács

9.45 **Morning coffee**

10.00 **Evolution vs creation? Grammatogenesis, cursivization and dormancy of a script**

Olgierd Uziembło (University of Warsaw)

10.35 **Rendering script shift in translation**

Aleksandra Wąsowicz-Peinado (University of Warsaw)

11.10 ***Transmutation* or the Intersemiotic Translation. The Case of the Egyptian *Book of the Heavenly Cow***

Valérie Angenot (Université du Québec à Montréal)

11.45 **30 min coffee break**

12.15 **A rebus reappraisal**

Gordon Whittaker (Universität Göttingen)

12.50 **Featuring the tongue: the case of isiBheqe soHlamvu script**

Iris Auda (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

13.25 **lunch break**

HOW WRITING SYSTEMS CATEGORIZE THE WORLD

Moderator: Aleksandra Wąsowicz-Peinado

15.30 **Visual Scenarios and Cognitive Patterns in the Formation of Semantic-Semantic Compounds (Huiyi) in Ancient Chinese Characters**

Yanru Xu (University of Cambridge)

16.05 **Stars, Royal Falcons and Ancestral Tablets: Extralexical Function of Divine Classifiers in Comparative and Diachronic Perspectives**

Marian Olech (National Sun Yat-sen University)

16.40 **30 min coffee break**

17.10 **Emergence and Historical Development of Lexical Determinatives in Mayan Writing**

David Mora-Marín (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

17.45 **Computerizing Hieroglyphic Scripts: History, Challenges, and Opportunities from a Computer Scientist's Perspective**

Kevin Graaf (independent researcher)

WEDNESDAY 24.06.2026 | morning

WRITING AS ACT: EMBODIED PRACTICE, PERFORMANCE, AND THE MATERIALITY OF INSCRIPTION

Moderator: Olgierd Uziembło

9.45 **Morning coffee**

10.00 **“Reading” Zigzag Motifs in Etruscan Pottery**

Campbell Rosener (University of Cambridge)

10.35 **Singing in the Rain: Visual Difrasisms and Tlaloqueh Incantations Outside of the ‘Box’**

Joshua Jacob Fitzgerald (University of Edinburgh)

11.10 **30 min coffee break**

11.40 **Introducing the Betaverse**

Tim Brookes (The Endangered Alphabets Project)

12.15 **Interwriting & Interosigns**

Alice Mazzilli (independent artist/researcher)

12.50 **An Endogenous (|Xam) Ontology of Sign, as an Affective Practice of Interoreading of Inscriptions in the Isibheqe Sohlamvu (Ditema tsa Dinoko) Writing System**

Pule kaJanolintji (University of Cape Town)

13.25 **lunch break & Jamigraphy!**

WEDNESDAY 24.06.2026 | afternoon

SIGN ON THE EDGE: IMAGE, SYMBOL, AND THE VISUAL SEMIOTICS OF WRITING

Moderator: Katarzyna Mikulska

15.30 **Changing Hues: Colour Adaptation in Polychrome Hieroglyphs on Ancient Egyptian Manuscripts as Supra-linguistic Semiosis**

Marina Sartori (University of Hamburg)

16.05 **small coffee break**

16.20 **Between iconic and symbolic representation. Unexpected forms of botanical illustration**

Aleksandra Twardokęs (Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow)

16.55 **Written strokes or painted words? About the entwining of word and painting in visual speeches in the Modern Age**

Francisco José Hidalgo Gutiérrez (Complutense University of Madrid)



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Research Center for Graphic
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