

Deviant Readings: Local and Communal Variation in the Sumerian Reading Tradition

Several frameworks have been proposed to explain the ability of the Mesopotamian scholarly tradition to forge and maintain cultural unity in the face of political and social fragmentation, ranging from the textual community, defined by a common reading of a shared corpus, to the distributed library of intellectual resources in both text and in memory. At the same time, there has been a renewed interest in exploring the regional and local variety in format, form, and content often obscured by paradigmatic tablet collections such as those of Old Babylonian Nippur or Neo-Assyrian Nineveh. The symposium addresses how we reconcile these approaches in order to understand patterns of unity and variation in the Sumerian reading traditions of the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE.

6 June 2024

11:00 Introduction

11:15 Paul Delnero, “‘Reading Traditions’ and Proto-Ea: Scribal Exercise or Global Sign List”

12:00 Basima Jalel Abed, “Cuneiform texts from Achaemenid Šaṭir”

12:45–14.30 Buffet Lunch

14:30 Niek Veldhuis, “Out of the Shadow: Misfits in the Old Babylonian Emesal Corpus”

15:15 Ali Murad, “Une tablette lexicale du Musée d’Irak”

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Jana Matuszak, “Deviant orthographies and the creation of meaning(s)”

17:15 Beatrice Baragli, “Deviant Readings at Sippar: Syllabic Writings as a Sign of Communal Practice?”

7 June 2024, Morning

9:30 Eleanor Robson, “From schoolhouse to warehouse: a microgeographical approach to constructing communities of cuneiform practice”

10:15 Laith Hussein, “The School Tablets from Tall Ḥarmal”

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Carole Roche-Hawley, “The place of the paleographic lists among the scholarly tradition”

12:15 Grégoire Nicolet, “The Old Babylonian Lexical Tradition outside Nippur: The Case of Mari and Meturan”

13:00–14:30 Buffet Lunch

14:30 Uri Gabbay, “The Use of Sumerian in Akkadian Commentaries”

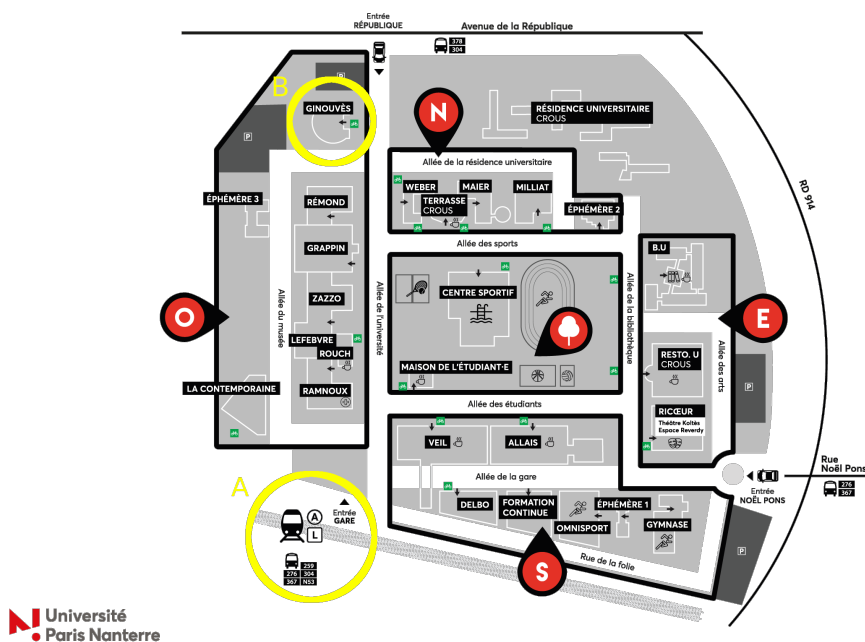
15:15 Christian W. Hess, “Reading Sumerian at Sultantepe”

16:00 Closing Discussion

The symposium is organized within the framework of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship on “Scribal Performance and Textual Standardization,” hosted by the working group Histoire et Archéologie de l’Orient Cunéiforme in the UMR 7041 – Archéologies et Sciences de l’Antiquité at the CNRS in Nanterre. The talks will take place from **6–7 June 2024** on the campus of the Université Paris Nanterre in the salle de conseil (4. étage) of the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme Mondes. Papers are scheduled to be ca. 30 minutes each, with 15 minutes for discussion.

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Plan du campus de Nanterre - Université Paris Nanterre



Plan of the campus of the Université Paris Nanterre. **A:** Train Station Nanterre Université (RER A from Châtelet towards Saint-Germain en Laye; Ligne L from Paris Saint-Lazare towards Cergy le Haut); **B:** Bâtiment René-Ginouvès