

Manu & Script: NEWSLETTER, FALL 2021

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Manuscript Migration Lab
AT THE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron

Franklin Humanities Institute, Humanities Unbounded Visiting Fellow; Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Howard University

Dr. Gay L. Byron, Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity and Howard University, is a Humanities Unbounded Visiting Fellow at Duke this year. Dr. Byron is collaborating with the Lab, directing attention to and contextualizing the Rubenstein Libraries' uncatalogued Ethiopic Manuscripts. The Lab is eagerly awaiting her findings and anticipates the events where she gets to share them.

On Thursday, October 21st, Professor Byron will host the Lab at the Korman Assembly Room in Perkins Library for an introductory event. More information, including the registration link, can be found on Page Seven. Be sure to stay for our catered reception which follows so we can all welcome the new affiliates.



More information on Professor Byron's Ge`ez Event can be found on page 7.




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New Affiliates

The Lab has the pleasure to announce that Drs. Pratima Gopalakrishnan & Matthew Hayes have become affiliates this Fall.

Pratima
Gopalakrishnan, PhD.



Dr. Pratima Gopalakrishnan is a historian of Near Eastern Jewish communities in the first millennium CE, with particular interests in free and unfree labor, sexuality, and economic history. As Perilman Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Jewish Studies, Gopalakrishnan's current research demonstrates how late antique Jewish texts describe the work performed by free and enslaved women not as static or unchanging, but as subject to constant negotiation. Another research project concerns the lists of commodities and valuations contained in medieval dowry lists and inventories from the Cairo Geniza. As a MML affiliate, Gopalakrishnan is especially interested in pedagogical applications of discussions about cultural heritage, and encourages students to reflect critically on historical and contemporary circumstances that condition their access to texts: whether a translation before them, an image of a papyrus on the library website, or an object displayed at the museum. Gopalakrishnan received her PhD in Religious Studies at Yale, a MA in Jewish Studies from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and a BA in Religious Studies and Economics from the University of Virginia.



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New Affiliates

Matthew Hayes is the Japanese Studies and Asian American Studies Librarian in the International and Area Studies (IAS) Department of Duke University Libraries. His work includes research consultations, library instruction, collection building, and web-based guides. He is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Council on East Asian Libraries and the Association for Asian Studies, and is actively involved in Duke's Asia/Pacific Studies Institute. Matthew earned a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and a Master's degree in Asian Studies at the University of Oregon. He completed his Ph.D. in Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA with a focus on early modern Japanese Buddhism.



Matthew Hayes, PhD.

Please join the Lab in welcoming our new affiliates. We're excited to have them come on, and hope you'll get to meet them this Thursday.

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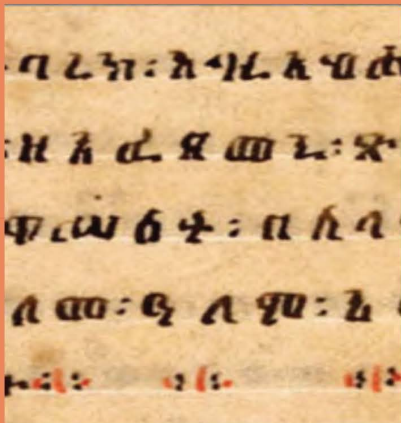
Staff Affiliates



Speaking of this Thursday, the Lab would like to thank two people who've become very helpful in organizing the "Ethiopic (Ge'ez) Manuscripts" event: our Lab Manager, Eli Meyerhoff, and the Research Associate for Professor Byron, Brogan Hannon.

We at the Lab are very grateful to these two. Thanks Eli for working towards a smooth event, and Brogan for all your work assisting Professor Byron in her research process.

Brogan Hannon, Research Associate



Brogan Hannon is an M.A. student in the Department of Religious Studies with academic interests in religious iconography, semiotics, and manuscript studies. At the Lab, he is examining the Rubenstein Library's uncatalogued Ge'ez collection with Rev. Dr. Byron to investigate how manuscripts operate in the world as physical objects and transform the lives they touch.

Eli is the Lab Staff Coordinator at the Franklin Humanities Institute and supports the Manuscript Migration Lab.



Eli Meyerhoff,
Lab Coordinator

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Past Events

The Lab has put our learning in good hands this semester, as the sequence of events continues to unearth engaging and significant findings.

Friday, Sep 10, 2021;
Ahmadieh Family Lecture Hall, Smith Warehouse

DR. WILLIAM H. WILLIS AND THE DUKE PAPYRI: A CONVERSATION

The Manuscript Migration Lab invites Dr. Daniel B. Sharp, Associate Professor, Brigham Young University, Hawaii and Dr. Nicholas Wagner, Postdoctoral Associate, Duke University to present their findings on the provenance of Duke's Willis papyri. We also welcome Dr. Roberta Mazza, Lecturer in Greco-Roman Material Culture, University of Manchester and Dr. Brent Nongbri, Professor, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, to contribute via Zoom. Seats are limited for this hybrid, socially distanced event; reserve a spot by filling out an online registration form.

Zoom: bit.ly/ZoomWillisPapyri

When: 1-2:30 P.M., Friday, September 10th
Where: Ahmadieh Family Lecture Hall,
C105, Bay 4, Franklin Humanities Institute,
Smith Warehouse, Duke University

bit.ly/DukeWillisPapyri

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We started things off in the Fall with a conversation hosted by our own Dr. Nick Wagner and Brigham Young University Hawaii's Associate Professor Daniel B. Sharp on Dr. William H. Willis and the Duke Papyri. Drs. Brent Nongbri, Professor at the MF Norwegian School of Religion, Theology, and Society, as well as Roberta Mazza, Lecturer in Greco-Roman Material Culture at the University of Manchester responded to the conclusions brought by the first two speakers. Notes of this event can be accessed by contacting Hen Kennett via hmk20@duke.edu.

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Ethiopic Ge`ez Manuscripts

An Informational Event with Examples Drawn from Duke's Collection

Ethiopic (Ge`ez) Manuscripts

AN INFORMATIONAL EVENT WITH EXAMPLES DRAWN FROM DUKE'S COLLECTION

Featuring Dr. Gay L. Byron, Franklin Humanities Institute, Humanities Unbounded Visiting Fellow and J. Andrew Armacost, Curator of Collections, Rubenstein Library

Professor Byron will introduce her current project, highlight some of the Ethiopic manuscripts in the Rubenstein collection, and address the complex set of challenges associated with studying early Christian Ethiopian sources. Curator Armacost will display examples from Duke's collection for the in-person audience.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021
3:30-5:00 PM

In-person: Duke U., Perkins Library, Room 217.
Virtual: on Zoom. **RECEPTION FOLLOWING**



Manuscript Migration Lab
AT THE FRANKLIN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

Dr. Gay L. Byron

Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity (Howard University),
Humanities Unbounded Visiting Faculty
Fellow (Duke University, '21-'22)

**THIS IS A HYBRID EVENT.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**

cutt.ly/RegisterEthiopic

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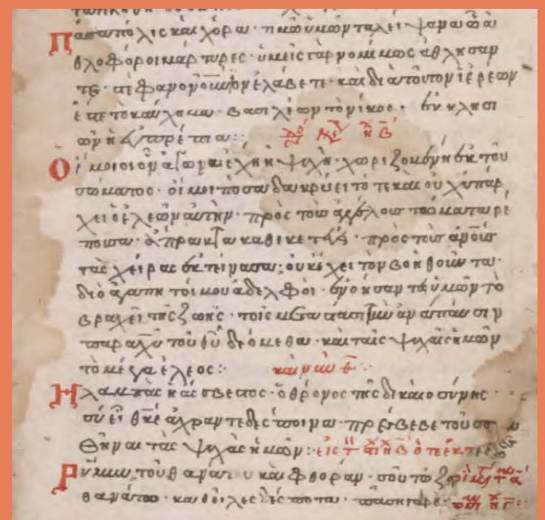


Upcoming Events



Our next event will take place on Tuesday, November 2nd, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM via Zoom. It will feature information provided by Dr. Timothy L. Stinson, Associate Professor, Department of English, North Carolina State University and is part of our ongoing collaboration with NC State over the study of biocodicology.

This talk will offer an overview of the emerging field of biocodicology, or the study of books via the biological information stored in them. This lecture will cover the history of the field and both the promises that it holds and the challenges faced as this area of study emerges.



Of Peptides and Scribes:
Applying Life Sciences to the
Study of Manuscripts

With such a thoughtful roster, we at the Lab hope to see you sometime this fall. If you ever have any questions concerning events at the MML, please email Hen Kennett at hmk20@duke.edu.

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Workshops



Digital Workshops hosted by Joseph Mulligan and Will Shaw, from Duke Libraries Digital Scholarship and Publishing Services, are one of the many programs going on this fall. The workshops have been assembled into three distinct meetings: the first workshop is on “Organizational Strategies in the Digital Image Archive”; the second, “Visualizing Historical Networks and Conceptual Maps”; thirdly, “Multi-spectral Imaging as a Tool for Manuscript Provenance”.

The first workshop took place on October 11th, from 2:00 to 3:00PM. Participants learned how to create an archive of visual materials for research using Tropy, an image management toolkit that allows users to organize images, record metadata about them, transcribe text from manuscripts or printed material, and export data for other uses.

“Visualizing Historical Networks and Conceptual Maps” will take place on Friday, November 5th, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM on Zoom. In this workshop, participants will learn how to build a project from the ground up, compiling, structuring, and styling data to visualize a web of affiliations with an interactive network map. Stay tuned for more information, including registration links!

“Multi-spectral Imaging as a Tool for Manuscript Provenance” will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, from 12:00 to 1:00PM on Zoom. Further information coming soon!

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END OF NEWSLETTER

This marks the end of our Fall Newsletter. The Lab wishes everyone a warm fall and hopes to see you this Thursday for our Welcoming Reception immediately following Dr. Byron's presentation for new Faculty, Staff, and Student Affiliates! Stay tuned for an upcoming Spring 2022 Course List. As always, feel free to contact Hen Kennett at hmk20@duke.edu with any Lab questions.



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