Magical & Literary Enchantment in the Ancient World

The Poetic-Pragmatic Aspect of Ancient Magical Texts

An Online Workshop

21 October 2021, 12-6.30 PM

Centre for the Study of the Bible | University of Oxford

Register Online

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/156694227653

Conference Organizer: Daniel Waller
For inquiries, please contact Stefania Beitia, PA to Prof. Hindy Najman
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Image: The Ghost of Samuel appearing to Saul, William Blake, c.1800 (National Gallery of Art, Washington)
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

12:00 – 12:10 Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Prof. Hindy Najman (Oxford)

SESSION I

12:10 – 12:50 Prof. Daniel Schwemer (Würzburg)
Literature and Ritual Performance in Ancient Mesopotamian Magic: The Case of the Babylonian Apotropaic Ritual ‘House of Enclosure’ (Bīt mēseri)

12:50 – 13:30 Prof. Richard Gordon (Erfurt)
Rhetorical Devices in Two Graeco-Egyptian Erotic Procedures (PGM IV 1496-1595; Suppl. Mag. no.47)

BREAK

SESSION II

14:00 – 14:40 Prof. Siam Bhayro (Exeter)
The Jewish Aramaic Magic Bowls: How the Magic Works

14:40 – 15:20 Dr. Dorota Molin (Cambridge and Oxford)
Bible Performance in the Jewish Aramaic Magic Bowls: Negotiating ‘Orthodoxy’ and Magic

BREAK

15:30 – 16:10 Dr. Ortal-Paz Saar (Utrecht)
Incantations and Nursery Rhymes: Text Stability in Jewish Magic

16:10 – 16:50 Prof. Sarah Iles Johnston (Ohio)
Narrating Reality in the Great Paris Magical Papyrus

BREAK

17:00 – 17:40 Dr. Daniel James Waller (Oxford)
‘I Descended to the Depths of the Earth’: Illocutionary Weight and First-Person Narrative Spells in the Jewish Aramaic Magic Bowls

17:40 – 18:20 Prof. Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv)
Response to the Papers and First Thoughts on their Wider Implications

18:20 – 18:30 Closing Remarks