

**Call for Papers:  
Inscribing Power in Antiquity**

**Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (München)  
October 20-23, 2016**

The introduction of writing in ancient societies considerably changed various domains of life. This manifest development raises a series of questions about the significance of writing in ancient social life. One dimension of that requires further investigation is the impact of writing on the cluster of ancient texts, practices, and ideas deemed magical. How did the expansion of writing both reflect and impact ancient perceptions of the power of words? What is the relationship between the development and institutionalization of writing and its perceived power to alter the cosmos for the purposes, inter alia, of harming enemies, of healing sicknesses, or of casting out demons? To what extent did changes in medium and in writing work together in constructing new views of textuality in ancient ritual contexts?

We invite you to participate in a conference at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (München), Inscribing Power in Antiquity. This conference will take place on October 20-23, 2016.

Please email us by 31 May if you desire to participate in the conference.

Papers should discuss some aspect of the relationship between ancient writing and ritual conceptions of power. Papers may cover various regions (e.g., Greece, Rome, Egypt, India, and China), times (e.g., antiquity, late antiquity, the medieval world), media (e.g., laws, curse tablets, amulets, inscribed gems), and institutional domains (e.g., political bodies, religious traditions, pedagogical contexts, and healing traditions). We are also interested in theoretically and methodologically oriented papers, which address larger concepts, such as the relationship between magic, on the one hand, and writing, orality, or textuality, on the other hand.

Inquires should be directed to Olivier Dufault ([odufault@gmail.com](mailto:odufault@gmail.com)) or Joseph Sanzo ([jsanzo@ucla.edu](mailto:jsanzo@ucla.edu)).

Best regards,

Olivier Dufault and Joseph Sanzo,  
Postdoctoral Fellows, Münchner Zentrum für Antike Welten,  
Distant Worlds Graduate School, Munich.