

Visualizing Drugs & Dyes



Art and Pharmacology
in (Early) Medieval
Worlds (600–1400)

September 4–6, 2023

University of Basel:
Forum eikones (Rheinsprung 11),
the Pharmacy Museum (Totengässlein 3)
and online

To participate online, please sign up [here](#).

Organizers:

Theresa Holler (University of Basel),
Hannah Baader (KHI Florenz/4A_Lab Berlin)
Andrew Griebeler (Princeton University)

Monday, September 4, 2023

Forum eikones, Rheinsprung 11, 4051 Basel

- 09:00–09:15 **Welcome & Introduction**
- 09:15–10:00 **The Colour of Plants**
Richard Gameson (Durham University)
- 10:00–10:45 ***Wið eagen a sare ond geswelle: Treating Afflictions of the Sensory Organs with the Old English Herbarium***
William Brockbank (Bern University)
- 10:45–11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00–11:45 **The Enslaved Rose? Visualising Roman Healing Roses and Those Who Worked with Them**
Laurence Totelin (Cardiff University)
- 11:45–12:30 **Exploring the Tangled Roots of Glass Furnaces in Medieval Herbals**
Danielle Joyner (Lawrence University)
- 12:30–13:30 Light Lunch at eikones

Universitätsbibliothek, Schönbeinstrasse 18-20, 4056 Basel

- 14:00–16:00 **Site visit with Monika Studer from the Manuscript Department**
(for speakers only)
- Heilende Ordnung – Heilung in der Unordnung (D III 14)**
Kristina Domanski (University of Basel)

Forum eikones, Rheinsprung 11, 4051 Basel

- 16:00–16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30–17:15 **Metrologie als Schlüssel zum Verständnis mittelalterlicher Rezepte**
Francesco Roberg (Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek der Stadt Trier/
Stadtarchiv)
- 17:15–18:00 **The Many Lives of (Sal) Ammoniac in the Medieval Central Mediterranean**
Robin Reich (Seattle University)
- 18:00–18:30 **Minerals as *materia medica*: Excavating the Visual Tradition**
Brigitte Buettner (Smith College, Northampton, Mass.) [online](#)
- 18:30 Apéro Riche at eikones

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Pharmacy Museum Basel University, Totengässlein 3, 4051 Basel

- 09:15–10:15 **Site visit at the Pharmacy Museum with Elias Bloch** (for speakers only)
- 10:15–10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45–11:30 **From Dioscorides to the Arab World: A Voyage into the Colourants Used in the Ancient Herbals**
Maurizio Aceto (Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale)
- 11:30–12:15 **Plants as Dyes in the Medieval Arabic Civilization; Ibn al-Bayṭār as a Case Study**
Ayman Yasin Atat (Technische Universität Braunschweig)
- 12:15–13:00 **Mimesis Approach in the Drug Illustrations of the Paris *Kitāb al-Diryāq* Based on Walter Benjamin's Doctrine of the Similar**
Farnaz Masoumzadeh (Art University of Isfahan)
- 13:00–14:00 Light Lunch at the Pharmacy Museum
- 14:00–14:30 **Collecting Nature on Paper? An Early History of Materia Medical Images in China**
Ruiying Gao (Wake Forest University) [online](#)
- 14:30–15:00 **Therapeutic Arabic Scrolls: The Use of Saffron on Medieval Magic-Medicinal Amulets**
Lyla Halsted (Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina) [online](#)
- 15:00–15:30 **Madder: Arts, Crafts and Medical Literature at the Crossroads**
Wanessa Asfora Nadler (Universidade de Coimbra) & Isamara Lara de Carvalho (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) [online](#)
- 15:30–16:15 **The Narrator Dyes. Analyzing Colour and Cure in Medieval Literature**
Isabelle Balmer (University of Basel) & Anina Steinmann (Stiftsarchiv St.Gallen)
- 16:15–16:45 Coffee Break
- 16:45–17:30 **Imaginario colectivo, tradición iconográfica e inercia de los editores: un nuevo nombre para la mandrágora en Isidoro de Sevilla (Etym. 17, 9, 30)**
Arsenio Ferraces Rodríguez (Universidade da Coruña)
- 17:30–18:00 **A Mandrake Crucifix on the Wendish Borderlands of Styria**
Gregory Bryda, Barnard College (Columbia University) [online](#)
- 18:00 Conference Dinner for Participants

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Forum eikones, Rheinsprung 11, 4051 Basel

- 10:00–10:45 **Indigenous Apothecary, Folkloric Claims and *Musa paradisiaca* in 11th-century Precolonial Nigeria**
Samuel Umoh Uwem (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
- 10:45–11:30 **Use of Indigenous Arctic Plants as Dyes and Tannins in the Traditional Northern Fish Skin Processing**
Elisa Palomino (Smithsonian Institution Arctic Studies Center)
- 11:30–11:45 Coffee Break
- 11:45–12:30 **Woad in Medieval Spain: Exploring the Multifaceted Role of a Prized Colorant, Curative, Protective, and Decorative Material**
Maite Álvarez and Cathy Carpenter (J. Paul Getty Museum)
- 12:30–13:30 Light Lunch at eikones
- 13:30–14:15 Closing Lecture:
Pigments and Dyes, Vision and Healing: Finding *materia medica* in Manuscript Illumination
Nancy K. Turner (J. Paul Getty Museum)
- 14:15–14:45 Round Table Discussion

After the conference, there will be the opportunity to see the Bauhin Herbarium together with Juriaan de Vos, Senior scientist & Curator of the Herbaria Basel and Botanical Garden at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Schönbeinstrasse 6. (15.30–16.30, max. 20 people, by registration only: theresa.holler@unibas.ch)