

MATERIALITY OF THINGS: THE HIDDEN POWER OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN OBJECTS

A study day with **Dr Christina Geisen** and **Dr Kelly Accetta Crowe**

Saturday 14 November 2026, 10:30 – 18:00

UCL Institute of Archaeology, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY and online

+ exclusive add-on object study session in the British Museum on Friday 13 November (see website for details)

We are thrilled to invite not one, but two, curators from the British Museum to lead this very special study day! Archaeological and textual evidence from ancient Egypt — its monumental architecture, landscapes, and everyday and funerary objects — has been subject to various modes of interpretation since the earliest days of Egyptology. Join Dr Christina Geisen and Dr Kelly Accetta Crowe as they present fresh materiality-focused approaches to two case studies. Firstly, they will examine papyri relating to the underworld and highlight the essential role of scientific analysis in illuminating scribal and workshop practices. Secondly, they will explore how the materiality of a Horus stela enhanced its protective power against dangers associated with the natural world. Close examination of material qualities such as colour, form, dimensions, plasticity, malleability, resistance, and production techniques reveals new understandings of function and meaning, as well as deeper insight into how ancient Egyptians understood and interacted with their natural environment. The speakers will also highlight how advanced digital methods aid their research.

The four lectures will include:

1. **Materiality of Things: How the physical qualities of Egyptian artefacts shaped their purpose**
2. **The Amduat-Papyri: Unfolding afterlife visions and workshop practices**
3. **The Power of Magic: Objects, spells, and everyday protection in ancient Egypt**
4. **Horus Stelae: Objects of protection in the face of natural threats**

In addition to hearing four fascinating lectures, those attending in person will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions and socialise with the speakers over morning and afternoon refreshments.

All who book will have access to the video recordings afterwards.

www.bssac.uk

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To attend our **MATERIALITY OF THINGS** study day (+ exclusive add-on object study session in the British Museum), book on our website or send the booking slip (below) with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'Bloomsbury Summer School' to: Dr Kathryn E. Piquette, Bloomsbury Summer School & Academy, c/o UCL Department of Information Studies, Foster Court, London WC1E 6BT. If you prefer to pay by bank transfer or other methods, please visit our website. The in-person study day booking price includes tea / coffee breaks, but *does not* include lunch. Booking confirmation will be sent to you by email.

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I would like ____ in-person place(s) at EB* **£40pp** / Std* **£45pp** OR ____ online place(s) at EB **£30pp** / Std **£35pp** for our **MATERIALITY OF THINGS** study day. * *Early Bird (EB) applies before 28 February; Standard (Std) fee thereafter.*

I would like ____ in-person place(s) at **£100pp** for the special Friday object study session in the British Museum.

I enclose a **sterling** cheque for £ _____ made payable to 'Bloomsbury Summer School'.

TITLE _____ FORENAME _____ SURNAME _____

(of all participants)

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ TEL. _____