

Poetic Traditions in Manuscript Cultures: 16–17 September 2021

poetictraditions.org

‘Manuscript and Text Cultures’ describes a phenomenon that begins when handwritten documents start to circulate more widely and knowledge transmission becomes increasingly text centred and no longer a predominantly oral exercise.

The Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures (CMTC) provides a venue for studying the ways in which material factors enabled pre-modern societies to generate information, argumentation and meaning. CMTC combines traditional approaches, such as philology, epigraphy and palaeography, with new methodologies inspired by communication theory, information science, philosophy, and other disciplines, in order to generate a common language for the study of the material conditions of meaning production and memory across time and space.

The conference *Poetic Traditions in Manuscript Cultures* enquires into the tensions between the oral performative element of early poetic traditions, on the one hand, and the written element in the material context of manuscript cultures and reading audiences, on the other. By reviewing the material aspects of writing and text production in the poetic realm, and enquiring into the transmission and the interface between the oral and the written, across pre-modern literate societies, the conference looks into the interplay between writing and the ways in which material conditions enabled—or hindered—information to flow. The conference thus connects to questions about literacies and reading practices, relations between authors, scribes, copyists, and readers, as well as the interrelation of the development of ideas and media technologies. We hope to propel informed debate across subject boundaries, thus shaping an emerging field of enquiry into the material factors of knowledge production across societies.



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