

## **Maddalena Rumor**

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### **MAIN INTERESTS**

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Social and Intellectual History of Medicine & Science/Technology – History of the Ancient Near East – Transfers of Scientific Knowledge/Information between the Ancient Near East and the Graeco-Roman World.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

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- Since 2016      Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University.
- 2016              Offered a “Postdoctoral Research Fellowship” as part of the enhanced cooperation on the history of knowledge between the Freie Universität Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Technische Universität Berlin, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. – Turned down.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

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- Akkadian 101: AKKD 101
- Introduction to the History of the Ancient Near East: HSTY 107
- Science in Western Thought I: HSTY 201
- Medical Terminology: CLSC 295A/B
- Ancient Medicine: HSTY/CLSC 337/437

### **EDUCATION AND DEGREES**

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- PhD              Freie Universität, Berlin (Approved *summa cum laude*. Conferred June 2016). Specialization in Assyriology/History of Knowledge. PhD thesis: “Babylonian Pharmacology in Graeco-Roman *Dreckapotheke*. With an Edition of Uruanna III, 1-143 (138).”
- MSI              School of Information, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI (April 2007). Masters of Science in Information. Specialization in "Library and Information Services."
- MA              Venice International University, Venice, Italy (December 1999). European Socrates Masters Program in “Archaeology and Dynamics of Writing.” Title: "Nascita e declino della scrittura cuneiforme: alcune riflessioni."
- BA              Università Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy (March 2003). Laurea 110 e lode (*summa cum laude*) in "Preservation of Cultural Goods." Specialization in "History and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East." Title: “La figura del medico e le pratiche terapeutiche nell’antica Mesopotamia.”

## **DISSERTATION TOPIC**

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Within the framework of TOPOI (E-CSG-III “From Technology to Science: The Spread of Knowledge”), my dissertation explored the hypothesis that elements of Assyro-Babylonian medicine and pharmacology may be present in the Graeco-Roman medical/pharmacological literature. In so doing, it identified textual connections and interactions that could prove this hypothesis, ultimately supporting the idea of a transfer of medical knowledge between the two cultures, which has never before been proved. With this purpose in mind, the study was conducted specifically by analysing the ancient application of a peculiar class of medical ingredients, generally labelled by historians of ancient medicine with the term *Dreckapotheke*.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- (Forthcoming) “Alchemy Between the Two Rivers?” In *The Ancient Near East Today*.
- (In press) “The Identification of *Sikillu* as Σκίλλα through its Descriptions and Uses in Mesopotamian and Graeco-Roman Sources.” In *Proceedings of the Workshop held at the 61<sup>st</sup> Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*. Edited by J. C. Johnson (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns 2018).
- (In press) “At the Dawn of Plant Taxonomy: Shared Structural Design of Herbal Descriptions in *Šammu šikinšu* and Theophrastus’ *Historia plantarum* IX.” In *Magic and Medicine in Mesopotamia*. Edited by S. V. Panayotov and L. Vacin. *Ancient Magic and Divination* 14 (Brill).
- 2017 “There’s No Fool Like an Old Fool: The Mesopotamian *aluzinnu* (and its Relationship to the Greek *alazôn*).” In *Kaskal* 14.
- 2017 “The ‘AŠ section’ of Uruanna III in *Partitur*.” In *Le Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes* 29: 1–34.
- 2016 “Aluzinnu Versus ἀλαζών: On the Use of Medical Terminology in the Babylonian and Greek Comic Traditions.” In *Libiamo ne’ lieti calici: Ancient Near Eastern Studies Presented to Lucio Milano on the Occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Pupils, Colleagues and Friends*. Edited by E. Devecchi, P. Corò, M. Maiocchi and N. de Zorzi. *AOAT* 436 (2016): 587–603.
- 2014 In collaboration with M. Martelli. “Near Eastern Origins of Graeco-Egyptian Alchemy.” In *Esoteric Knowledge in Ancient Sciences*. Edited by K. Geus and M. J. Geller. (Berlin: Max Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte 2014): 37–62.
- 2013 “A New Join Between Fragments of Uruanna III.” in *N.A.B.U.* 4/88 (2013): 149–150.

## **LECTURES, CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS**

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- 10.26.2017 “A Case of Babylonian Astro-Medicine and Pliny the Elder.” Invited by Hiram College, Hiram OH.
- 04.12.2017 “Lost in translation: Babylonian Pharmacology in Roman Therapy.” Invited by the Cleveland Archaeological Society (CAS). Cleveland.
- 01.08.2017 “A New Explanation, Based on Near Eastern Sources, for the Greek Use of Squill in Purification Rituals,” hosted by the Society for Classical Studies (SCS), 2017 Annual Meeting. Toronto.

- 18.10.2016 “Characters and Language in the Aluzinnu-text and in Greek Comedy: Some Comparative Reflections,” hosted by the Advanced Seminar in the Humanities, “Literature and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece, Rome and the Near East.” Venice International University. Venice.
- 12.01.2016 “Pharmacology in the Ancient world,” hosted by the “BabMed Seminar: Griechisch-Babylonische Heilkunde,” Freie Universität, Berlin.
- 19.11.2015 “Lost in (Literal) Translation: Babylonian Pharmacology in Graeco-Roman Therapy,” hosted by the Max Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin.
- 25.06.2015 “Towards an Identification of *sikillu* through its Descriptions and Uses (in Mesopotamian and Graeco-Roman Sources,” hosted by the 61st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI), Bern, Switzerland.
- 21.01.2015 “*Aluzinnu*” versus ἀλαζών: on the use of medical terminology in the Babylonian and Greek comic traditions.” Lecture presented for the “Keilschrift Medizin Seminar,” TOPOI - FU, Berlin.
- 16.03.2014 “Nasty ingredients in Babylonian and Graeco-Roman Medicine” hosted by the 224th Meeting of the American Oriental Society. Phoenix, AZ, USA.
- 19.02.2014 “From the Tigris to the Tiber: a case of Babylonian Astro-medicine in Pliny the Elder.” Invited by the Classics and History departments, by the Dittrick Center for Medical History and by the World Lit program of the Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH, USA.
- 16.07.2013 “From Iqīšā to Pliny the Elder: *Dreckapotheke* and the Law & Order of a *Kalendertext*” hosted by the 59th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI), Ghent, Belgium.
- 16.04.2012 “Babylonian *Dreckapotheke*.” Invited by the Humboldt Universität’s research program “Medicine of the Mind, Philosophy of the Body.” Berlin, Germany.
- 06.12.2011 “Origins of Alchemy” hosted by the Second Dahlem Seminar on the History of Science in Antiquity, “Esoteric Knowledge in Ancient Sciences” (in collaboration with Matteo Martelli). Berlin, Germany.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS**

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- 2015-2016 Full scholarship to attend and present at the “Advanced Seminar on the Humanities 2015-2016” by the Venice International University (Venice 23.11.2015 – 4.12.2015, and presentation of research results in October 2016).
- June 2015 Travel grant by the BabMed Research Team to present in their workshop, at the 61st RAI in Bern, Switzerland.
- March 2014 Travel grant by the American Oriental Society to participate in the 224th Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, USA.
- 2010 – 2013 Full scholarship and stipend by the TOPOI Excellence Cluster, Berlin.
- 2005-2007 Recipient of the Marylouise Meder Award, and Sharon Hogan Award: full scholarship and stipend. University of Michigan.
- 2003 Premio Nazionale di Cultura Casati – Italian “Casati National Culture Award,” Humanities Section. Given annually by the Onaosi association to two Graduate Students who have written the best thesis in a humanistic discipline in Italy.

## **OTHER RESEARCH, FIELDWORK, TRAVELING**

- 2015-2016 Venice International University. "Advanced Seminar on the Humanities 2015-2016," Venice (23.11.2015 – 4.12.2015, and presentation of research results on October 18, 2016).
- 2013 Stays at the British Museum, London (Feb-March 2013) and Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin (different dates in 2012 and 2013).
- 2004 Cleveland Museum of Art, Greek and Roman Department, Cleveland, OH (Spring-Summer 2004). *Intern.* Helped the curator prepare material for the Department's catalog.
- 1999 Tel Aviv University; Center for Mediterranean Civilizations, Tel Aviv, Israel (July 1999). Summer Workshop on "The Origins of the Alphabet." Scholarship to attend the workshop.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

- SCS Society for Classical Studies (since 2016).
- AAHM American Association for the History of Medicine (since 2015).
- AOS American Oriental Society (since 2013).
- IAA International Association of Assyriologists (since 2013).