



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PERCEPTIONS OF HEALTH IN THE NILE VALLEY

THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSION OF HEALING PRACTICE IN THE EGYPTIAN CONTEXT
FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE MIDDLE AGES (4TH MILLENNIUM BCE – 15TH CENTURY CE)

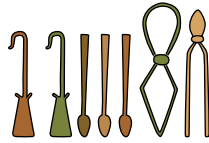
ORGANISED BY:

GABRIELE CONTE

IFAO & PCMA UW

8 - 9 APRIL 2026, CAIRO





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PROGRAMME



Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 8 April (PCMA)

- 08.00-09.00 **Registration**
- 09.00-09.30 **Opening of the conference**
- First Session: Narrating health and healing**
- 09.30-10.15 **Keynote lecture:**
 Rita Lucarelli (University of California, Berkeley)
 The so-called Magico-Medical Papyri and Magical Thinking in Ancient Egypt
- 10.15-10.45 **Gael Papola (École pratique des hautes études – Laboratoire AOROC, Paris)**
 Celestial Waters in Healing: Reconstructing the Indigenous Classification of Dew (ḥd.t) as Ritual Enhancer and Rain (ḥw.t) as Purifying Agent in Ancient Egyptian Medical Recipes
- 10.45-11.15 **Lola Mohimont (Université de Lille)**
 Ailment and healing approaches in Ancient Egypt: exploring the magic-medicine spectrum through medical compilations analysis
- 11.15-11.45 **Coffee break**
- 11.45-12.15 **Juliane Unger (University of Heidelberg)**
 Semen of a goddess? - A reexamination of the pathogen c₃c (online)
- 12.15-12.45 **Francesco Serrati (École normale supérieure – École pratique des hautes études, Paris)**
 Dry or Wet? A Lexical Approach to Fumigation and Fomentation in Egyptian, Greek, and Coptic
- 12.45-13.45 **Lunch break**
- 13.45-14.15 **Theodora Zampaki (Hellenic Open University)**
 Greek Medical Knowledge in the Nile Valley: Hippocratic and Galenic Healing in Ibn Riḍwān's "On the Prevention of Bodily Ills in Egypt" (online)



- 14.15-14.45 **Azza Ezzat (Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria)**
The Medicinal Plants in Ahmed Pasha Kamal's Dictionary of Plants and Trees: A Glimpse into Ancient Egyptian Remedies
Second Session: Materialising health and healing
- 14.45-15.30 **Keynote lecture: Timothy Insoll (University of Exeter)**
Materialising Medicine in the past of Sub-Saharan Africa - Beyond Interpretation? Insights from Archaeology, Ethnography, and Archaeometry
- 15.30-16.00 **Gianluca Miniaci (University of Pisa)**
Traces of Healing Practices on the Clay Figurines of Middle Bronze Age Egypt
- 16.00-16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.00 **Beatrice De Faveri (University of California, Berkeley)**
New perspectives on the 'blue lotus' (Nymphaea Caerulea) as a psychoactive aid in New Kingdom rituals
- 17.00-17.30 **Nermeen Samir Mohamed Said Zayed (Ain Shams University, Cairo)**
The Echo of Anatomy in Alexandrian Sculpture: The Votive Foot from El-Ras el-Suda Temple as a Case Study.
- 17.30-18.00 **Noha Abdelaal Saleem (Ain Shams University, Cairo)**
Mobile Kits of Healing: The Circulation of Portable Medical Instruments in Roman Egypt
- 18.00-18.30 **Mennah Aly (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Cairo)**
"Drive This Fear Away ... Place This Heart in Its Place": Exploring the Ancient Egyptian Antecedents of the Folk Medicine Tool Ṭāsāt al-ḥaḍḍa (the Bowl of Fright)



Day 2: Thursday 9 April (IFAO)

08.45-09.15 **Registration**

Third Session: Embodying health and healing

09.15-10.00 **Keynote lecture:**
Iwona Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin (University of Exeter-University of Warsaw)
The Body of Evidence: Bioarchaeological contributions to the study of health and disease in Ancient Egypt

10.00-10.30 **Coffee break**

10.30-11.00 **Taha Ismail Shehata Rashdan (National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, Cairo)**
Healing, Care, and Vulnerability: Three cases from the New Kingdom, Qubbet el-Hawa (Aswan)

11.00-11.30 **Aya Salem (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Cairo)**
Children's Health in Graeco-Roman Alexandria: An Archeoanthropological Study of Newly Excavated Child Burials from the Eastern Necropolis

11.30-12.00 **Alexandra Warwick (University of Manchester)**
Subadult health in the Archaeological Survey of Nubia: Preliminary results from Cemetery 2 (online)

12.00-12.20 **Presentation of the volume *Medicine and Healing in Egyptian History* – Yasmine El Dorghami (Founder and Editor in Chief of *Rawi*)**

12.20-13.00 **Poster session**

13.00-14.00 **Lunch break**

Fourth session: Socialising health and healing

14.00-14.45 **Keynote lecture:**
Anne Austin (University of Missouri-St. Louis)
Healthmaking in the Past: A Social Model of Health Disparities in Ancient Egypt



- 14.45-15.15 **Sofie Schiødt (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)**
Written Medicine, Oral Remedies: Professional and Popular Healing Practices in New Kingdom Egypt
- 15.15-15.45 **Gabriele Mario Conte (Ifao-PCMA, Cairo)**
"A disease that I will contend with": Anthropological significance of ancient Egyptian healing instructions
- 15.45-16.15 **Coffee break**
- 16.15-16.45 **Clara Martínez-Moreno (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**
The Ancient Egyptian Cosmos Mirrored in Healing Practices: A Study Proposal
- 16.45-17.15 **Jasmine Sahu-Hough (Yale University)**
Disability and the Dynamics of Healing in Ancient Egypt
- 17.15-17.45 **Final discussion**
- 17.45-18.00 **Closing of the conference**

Posters:

Alix Sabot (Université Paul Valéry Montpellier)

Parasites and parasitic diseases in ancient Egypt: knowledge, diagnosis, pathologies, and remedies

Dalia Mohamed Goda (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Cairo)

Health and Disease in Tell El-Deir Cemetery during the Late Period: An Anthropological Insight into Medical Practices and Dietary Habits.

Cosimo Ragone (University of California, Berkeley)

Healing as smAa-xrw: Justification through Health in the Ancient Egyptian Afterlife

Walaa Abdel Hameed Ahmed Elgenedy (Fayum University)

*Midwifery (*Mara*) in Byzantine Egypt: Roles, Tools, and Wages as Reflected in Greek Documentary Papyri*





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UNIVERSITY
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