

Globalization of Knowledge in the Mediterranean World of Post-Antiquity. Mechanisms of Transfer and Transformation

October 26–27, 2012

Ethnological Museum, Berlin-Dahlem

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Germany)

globalization2012@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Organized by:

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Program

October 26

9:30-10:00 Introduction

Vehicles of Transfer and Transformation of Knowledge

Chair: Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (Freie Universität zu Berlin)

10:00-10:30 Matteo Valleriani (MPIWG Berlin)

The Spread of Greek Mechanics in the Hellenistic and Roman Culture

10:30-11:00 Dimitri Gutas (Yale University)

Mechanisms of Non-transfer of Knowledge: The Absence of Plato in the Medieval Graeco-Arabic Transmission

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-11:45 Beatrice Gruendler (Yale University)

Warrāqūn: The Unnamed Agents of the Arabic Book Revolution

11:45-12:15 Ana Akasoy (Bochum University)

Iskandar: Cultural Integration in and beyond Religion

12:15-12:45 Sabine Schmidtke (FU Berlin)

The Cultural Transfer of Zaydi and non-Zaydi Religious literature from Northern Iran to Yemen, 12th and 13th Centuries

12:45-14:30 Lunch Break

Chair: Ursula Klein (MPIWG Berlin)

14:30-15:00 Regula Forster (FU Berlin)

Transmission of Secret Knowledge. Arabic Dialogues on Alchemy

15:00-15:30 Gerhard Wolf (KHI Florence)

Visual Knowledge, Aesthetic Concepts and Artistic Practices. Interactions in the Trans-Mediterranean Area in the Premodern Time

15:30-16:00 Henrique Leitão (University of Lisbon)

Long Distance Oceanic Voyages and the Transformation of Knowledge

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 Discussion

October 27

Cross-Cultural Processes of Knowledge Transfer and Transformation

Chair: Sarah Stroumsa (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

10:00-10:30 Thomas Glick (Boston University)

Relict Arab and Berber Irrigation Systems in Spain: Etymology and Epistemology

10:30-11:00 David Nirenberg (University of Chicago)

Worrying About Cultural Exchange in the Court of Alfonso X, 'the Wise'

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-11:45 William Shea (University Padua)

Pliny and the Transmission of Knowledge

11:45-12:15 Jürgen Renn (MPIWG Berlin)

The Transformation of Mechanics into the Science of Weights

12:15-12:45 Charles Burnett (The Warburg Institute)

The Synonyma-literature in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

12:45-14:30 Lunch Break

Chair: Jürgen Renn (MPIWG Berlin)

14:30-15:00 Hussein Fancy (University of Michigan)

The Mediterranean Exception: Late Medieval Sovereignty, Religion, and Violence

15:00-15:30 Sonja Brentjes (MPIWG Berlin)

14th- and 15th-century Portolan Charts: Challenges to our Understanding of Cross-Cultural Relationships in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions and of (Knowledge?) Practices of Chart-Makers

15:30-16:00 Helge Wendt (MPIWG Berlin)

Greek Science and the Ancient World in the Historiography of the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-17:30 Discussion

End of Conference