

This conference will explore how medieval and early modern texts deploy material objects in order to negotiate questions of temporal otherness. The literary engagement with the material world, we believe, provides a backdrop against which alternative ways of thinking materiality and temporality become possible.

Is temporal alterity a special prerogative of marvellous artefacts, or are all material objects subject to their own temporal regimes? Can any object assume particular temporal relevance and impinge on the status quo in significant ways? Does the lingering presence of objects with a special status point towards the existence of complex networks between the material world and human actors or observers?

If things can act as repositories of alterity, does this endow them with a degree of independence that elevates them above the status of mere 'object'? Do they become temporal 'actors' themselves, and if so, how? How do premodern texts contribute to undermining a radical distinction between the 'human' and the 'material', between subject and object? How do they help us critique what Bruno Latour has called 'the modern constitution'?

Conference Venue:
SFB 980 Episteme in Bewegung
Schwendenerstraße 8
14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Organized by
Prof. Dr. Andrew James Johnston
Martin Bleisteiner & Jan-Peer Hartmann

SFB 980 «Episteme in Bewegung» / «Episteme in Motion»
Project B01: Artefacts, Treasures and Ruins -
Materiality and Historicity in the Literature
of the English Middle Ages

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Front image:
Sword-pommel; silver-gilt. Late 8th century, of Anglo-Saxon or Pictish origin.
Front and rear are identical in their pattern, made up of elaborately interlaced,
speckled beasts. Part of the St Ninian's Hoard, discovered in 1958.

This item is from Project Woruldhord, University of Oxford (<http://projects.oucs.ox.ac.uk/woruldhord>)
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Strange Matter

HOW THINGS DISRUPT TIME



International Workshop
August 23-25, 2018

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Schwendenerstraße 8
14195 Berlin-Dahlem

THURSDAY, 23 AUGUST 2018

13.30	Registration
14.00	Welcome Address
	Chair: Jan-Peer Hartmann (Freie Universität Berlin)
14.15	Jonathan Gil Harris (Ashoka University) «Strange Mater: An Uncanny Vision of Mary in a Sixteenth-Century Goan Hindu Temple»
15.15	Kim Phillips (University of Auckland) «Marco Polo's <i>Boqtaq</i> : A Medieval Object and its Afterlife»
16.15	Coffee break
	Chair: Martin Bleisteiner (Freie Universität Berlin)
16.45	Andrew James Johnston (Freie Universität Berlin) «A Strange Object of Aesthetic Desire: Chaucer's Theatre as Cinema»
17.45	Reception

FRIDAY, 24 AUGUST 2018

	Chair: Joshua Davies (King's College, London)
09.30	Julian Yates (University of Delaware) «Time for Relics»
10.30	Jan-Peer Hartmann (Freie Universität Berlin) «The Multiple Lives of the Ruthwell Monument»
11.30	Coffee break
12.00	James Paz (Manchester University) «Welandes geweorc: How <i>smiþcræft</i> Disrupts the Narrative in <i>Beowulf</i> »
13.00	Lunch break
	Chair: Peter Löffelbein (Freie Universität Berlin)
14.30	Sharon Kinoshita (UC Santa Cruz) «How to Do Things with Things: Material Objects in the Multicultural Mediterranean»
15.30	Falk Quenstedt (Freie Universität Berlin) «Marvellous Stones as Mediators in <i>Herzog Ernst</i> and <i>Straßburger Alexander</i> »
16.30	Coffee break
17.00	Seeta Chaganti (UC Davies) ««Swych Vertu»: Time, Virtuality, and a Middle English Carol»
19.30	Conference Dinner

SATURDAY, 25 AUGUST 2018

	Chair: Sarah Briest (Freie Universität Berlin)
09.30	Shayne Legassie (UNC Chapel Hill) «Insect Life and Afterlife»
10.30	Martin Bleisteiner (Freie Universität Berlin) ««As he were lyvyng» – Hector's Body and the Problem of Posterity in Lydgate's <i>Troy Book</i> »
11.30	Coffee break
	Chair: Wolfram Keller (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
12.00	Valerie Allen (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) «Between Etymology and Symbol: Words as Things»
13.00	Lunch break
14.30	Stephanie Trigg (University of Melbourne) «Vitreous Temporality»
15.30	Round-Up