



Intertextuality in the Divinatory Series of the Ancient Near East

July 3, 2021 – Online conference of the University of Geneva

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://unige.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrd--hpjojH9Rmd9CFMoLsMzlhWRVB_ut4

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- 9.30h Catherine Mittermayer
Introduction
- 9.40h Jeanette Fincke
On Falling Stars, Meteors and Bolides in the Omen Series *enūma anu enlil*
- 10.25h Saki Kikuchi
Calendrical Structure in Divinatory Texts
- 11.10h Short break
- 11.15h Eric Schmidtchen
Intertextual Relations between *Alamdimmû* and *Šumma ālu*, and Where to Find Them
- 12.00h Lunch break
- 13.30h Elyze Zomer
The Series *Zaqiqu*. Structure, Position, and Tradition
- 14.15h Kaira Boddy, Fabienne Huber Vulliet, Catherine Mittermayer
Reconstructing *Šumma ālu*: New Evidence for the Final Part of the Series
- 15.00h Final discussion
- 15.30h (End of the conference)

Abstracts:

Jeanette Fincke: On Falling Stars, Meteors and Bolides in the Omen Series *enūma anu enlil*

Mesopotamian diviners observed the sky very carefully to notice every little change in the firmament. Just like today, falling stars or shooting stars were a special event because these short-lasting light phenomena interrupt the familiar image of the starry night sky particularly strong. In my presentation, I shall present various descriptions of falling stars and meteors based on the omen series *enūma anu enlil* and other celestial omen texts, thereby clarifying the astronomers' understanding of the underlying processes.

Saki Kikuchi: Calendrical Structure in Divinatory Texts

In his study on the calendrical omen series *iqqur īpuš* published in 1954, R. Labat pointed out its close relationship to the terrestrial omen series *šumma ālu* and the celestial omens series *Enūma Anu Enlil*. This paper will attempt to retrace the underlying structural relationships between these compositions based on the calendrical scheme.

Eric Schmidtchen: Intertextual Relations between *Alamdimmû* and *Šumma ālu*, and Where to Find Them

It is quite striking that, in the present state of reconstruction, the main series of physiognomic and behavioural omens (*Alamdimmû*) seems to exhibit nearly no direct intertextual relations or parallels to the comprising series on terrestrial, domestic and behavioural omens, viz. *Šumma ālu*. Within the talk, we will examine certain less obvious sections and possible new identifications of *Alamdimmû* as well as related material that might nevertheless shed light on a possible intertextuality between both series.

Elyze Zomer: The Series *Zaḳīqu*. Structure, Position, and Tradition.

This paper presents the primary structure and organization behind the so-called 'Assyrian Dreambook' and elaborates the rather unique position of the dream omens within the larger setting of Mesopotamian omen literature. Furthermore, it investigates the development of traditions, interrelations with other genres and the working principles of Mesopotamian dream interpretation.

Kaira Boddy, Fabienne Huber Vulliet, Catherine Mittermayer: Reconstructing *Šumma ālu*: New Evidence for the Final Part of the Series

Advances in the reconstruction of the last third of the *Šumma ālu* series have brought to light an unexpected variety of subject matters. Based on the collective information of a group of excerpt tablets from Nineveh, several new canonical Tablets could be identified. Besides typical *Šumma ālu* topics, such as a man's clothing (Tablet 93), they cover topics that are at first, perhaps, more reminiscent of other divinatory series as for example Tablets 106 and 107 dealing with celestial phenomena.