



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 (4<sup>TH</sup> MILLENNIUM BCE – 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CE)

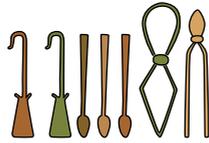
ORGANISED BY:

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 (ḫd.t) as Ritual Enhancer and Rain (ḫw.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  $c_3c$  (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 Riḏwān's "On the Prevention of Bodily Ills in Egypt" (online)*



- 14.15-14.45 **Azza Ezzat (Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria) - Mohamed Hassan Ismaeel (Alexandria University)**  
*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, Alexandria)  
*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 (Maia) in Byzantine Egypt: Roles, Tools, and Wages as Reflected in Greek Documentary Papyri*



