

The Cluster of Excellence
Understanding Written Artefacts
at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures
cordially invites you to the workshop

The Ecology of the *Physiologus*: Texts, Images, Manuscripts

Tuesday, 4 June 2024, 1:45 pm – 6:00 pm CEST

Wednesday, 5 June, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm CEST

Warburgstraße 26, 20354 Hamburg

Organised by Caroline Macé (Universität Hamburg)
and Emmanuelle Kuhry (IRHT, Paris)

Registration:

<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/en/register/workshop58>

The *Physiologus* is a strange and polymorphic early Christian work. Originally written in Greek probably in Alexandria, probably in the third century CE, it was translated into all languages of the Christian East and, through several Latin translations, became very popular in Western Europe throughout the Middle Ages. Although of little literary and doubtful theological value, it was widely transmitted and adapted in various cultural contexts. Whereas its original milieu of creation and audience remain mysterious, this relatively short and simple work served different purposes according to the different manuscript settings in which it was integrated and sometimes illustrated: theological collections, encyclopaedic compilations, gatherings of entertaining or exotic works, etc. These different settings changed the ways in which the *Physiologus* was perceived, as much as did its several rewritings. The purpose of this workshop is to explore how the reception of a given work is influenced by the ecology of the manuscripts in which it is transmitted, and conversely. This exploratory workshop, focusing on the *Physiologus* as an exceptional case study because of the extraordinary variety of languages, cultures and contexts in which it was transmitted, will develop an innovative approach combining codicological, philological, and art-historical methods to understand the ecology of multiple-text manuscripts.

Programme

Tuesday, 4 June, 1:45 pm – 6:00 pm

1:45 – 2:00 Introduction to the workshop

First session

Chair: Hanna Wimmer (Universität Hamburg)

2:00 – 3:00 Christine Stephan-Kaissis (Heidelberg)
*The Visual Physiologus: Sampling the Dynamics of Synecology in
Illuminated Byzantine Manuscripts*

3:00 – 4:00 Anna Dorofeeva (Göttingen)
*Collecting and Disseminating Knowledge in Early Medieval Latin
Physiologus Manuscripts*

4:00 – 4:30 Coffee Break

Second session

Chair: Jost Gippert (Universität Hamburg)

4:30 – 5:15 Emmanuel Kuhry and Isabelle Draelants (Paris)
The Mysterious Iorach, Source of the Physiologus?

5:15 – 6:00 Caroline Macé (Hamburg)
The Dragon in the Physiologus

Wednesday, 5 June, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Round Table

Chair: Jost Gippert (Universität Hamburg)

with Anna Dorofeeva, Horst Schneider, Christine Stephan-Kaissis, Hanna Wimmer, and the members of the PPP/PHC Procope Project

10:00 – 11:00 Manuscript contexts in which the *Physiologus* is embedded in the different cultural traditions in which it was transmitted: Greek, Latin, Arabic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Georgian, Slavonic, Syriac manuscripts

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Manuscript contexts and literary genres: forms, formats, and ecology of manuscripts and texts

12:30 – 1:00 Final discussion