

## **The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)**

cordially invites you to the workshop

### **Short, Swift, Secret: Writing and Reading the Shorthand Manuscript**

Friday, 4 March, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm CET

Zoom Meeting

Registration:

<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/en/register-workshop17>

Variously identified as an art, a technology, and a professional prerequisite, forms of shorthand have been in use from antiquity to the modern day. From Tironian notes to Latin abbreviations, from the surge in early modern England to the ensuing spread as far afield as Russia and China, shorthand and adjacent systems of speedy writing occupy a complex and multifaceted position in manuscript cultures. Shorthand has been widely employed for verbatim transcription – in sermons, parliamentary debates, courts, and offices. Authors such as Charles Dickens, Astrid Lindgren, and Erich Kästner employed shorthand in their writing. Countless others have used shorthand to keep private diaries, taking advantage of the feature of shorthand that proves most frustrating to modern scholars: the difficulty of deciphering it. Although shorthand may be defined by certain basic parameters – as a method of speedy writing by means of the substitution and contraction of letters, words, and syllables – even the systems and systematics of shorthand varied drastically depending on the intended use. It is this variety that makes shorthand manuscripts such a compelling subject of investigation. United by the writing system and its materiality, conference participants will engage in a comparative, interdisciplinary conversation on the under-researched history of shorthand. Papers will incorporate reflections on the writing practices of their given period and place, therefore allowing the production and use of shorthand systems from different periods and cultures to stand in relation or in contradistinction to each other.

## Programme

2:00 – 2:05 Welcome & Introduction

### PANEL 1

#### **The Fountainhead of Stenography: Tironian Notes from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period**

Chair: Sean O'Neal (New York)

2:05 – 2:35 Christoph Walther (Hamburg): *Shorthand Writing and Legal Practice: The Use of Tironian Notes in Early Medieval Legal Manuscripts*

2:35 – 3:05 Maximilian Gamer (Zurich): *De notis et mirabili modo sed nimis laborioso scribendi M. T. Ciceronis: Writing the History of the Tironian Notes in the Sixteenth Century*

3:05 – 3:35 Martin Hellmann (Wertheim am Main): *Writing Tironian Notes on the Computer*

3:35 – 3:45 Coffee & Tea

### PANEL 2

#### **From Women to Ministers: Shorthand Users in Premodern Times**

Chair: Delphine Gardey (Genève)

3:45 – 4:15 Timothy Underhill (Cambridge, UK): *'Let [not] your girle learne Short hand': Manuscript Evidence of Shorthand Use by Female Writers in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century England*

4:15 – 4:45 David M. Powers (Greater Boston): *The Three Codes of Adonijah Bidwell*

4:45 – 4:55 Coffee & Tea

### PANEL 3

#### **Capturing Speech: Shorthand Writing in Modernity**

Chair: Sabine Kienitz (Hamburg)

4:55 – 5:25 Teddy Delwiche (New Haven): *Fear, Distrust, and Copyright: The Emergence of the Shorthand Reporter in the United States*

5:25 – 5:55 Uta Lauer (Hamburg): *'Sound-transmitting fast Characters': Chinese Shorthand*

5:55 – 6:00 Closing remarks