

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### Sumerian, Cuneiform Writing System

**Gong, Yushu** (*Peking University*)

**Jones, Philip** (*University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*)

**Schmandt-Besserat, Denise** (*The University of Texas at Austin*)

**Ilona Zsolnay** (*University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*)

### Egyptian Hieroglyphic Writing System

**Chen, Yongsheng** (*Brown University*)

**Darnell, John** (*Yale University*)

**Depuydt, Leo** (*Brown University*)

**Roberson, Joshua A.** (*Camden College and University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*)

### Olmec/Maya Writing System

**Carrasco, Michael D.** (*Florida State University*)

**Chinchilla Mazariegos, Oswaldo** (*Yale University*)

**Rossi, Franco and Saturno, William** (*Boston University*)

**Mora Marin, David** (*University of North Carolina*)

**Zhang, He** (*William Paterson*)

### Oracle Bone Inscription and Archaic Chinese

**Chen, Kuang Yu** (*Rutgers University*)

**Huang, Yaping** (*Shandong University*)

**Hwang, Mingchorng** (*Academia Sinica, Taipei*)

**Smith, Jonathan** (*Christopher Newport University*)

**Song, Zhenhao** (*Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing*)

**Wang, Hui** (*Shaanxi Normal University*)

**Wang, Yunzhi** (*Paleographic Center, Henan University*)

### Panelists and Discussants

**Allan, Sarah** (*Dartmouth College*)

**Ning, Xin** (*Jilin University*)

**Schwartz, Adam** (*New York University*)

**Simmons, Richard** (*Rutgers University*)

**Tu, Ching-I** (*Rutgers University*)

**Tschanz, Dietrich** (*Rutgers University*)

### Organizing Committee

**Chen, Kuang Yu** (*Rutgers University*)

**Gong, Yushu** (*Peiking University*)

**Tschanz, Dietrich** (*Rutgers University*)

**Tu, Ching-I** (*Rutgers University*)

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

### The Chinese Writing System and Its Dialogue with Sumerian, Egyptian, and Mesoamerican Writing Systems



MAY 30-31, 2015

# The Four Earliest Writing Systems

#### Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center

178 Ryders Lane  
Douglass Campus, Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ

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Confucius Institute of Rutgers University (CIRU)  
Office of the Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Dean's Office, School of Arts and Sciences



# The Four Earliest Writings Systems

## FRIDAY MAY 29, 2015

Participants check in at the Rutgers Inn and Conference Center.

## SATURDAY MAY 30, 2015

8:00-9:00

Registration and Refreshments

9:00-9:20

Welcome and Introduction

**Ching-I Tu**, Director, Confucius Institute of Rutgers University (CIRU)

Opening Remarks

**Kuang Yu Chen**, Rutgers University

### Panel 1 Theorizing Writing and Writing Systems

Moderator: **Sarah Allan** (Dartmouth College) (9:20 – 10:50)

**Leo Depuydt** (Brown University)

*The Scientific Theory of Egyptian Hieroglyphic Writing in Boole's, Saussure's, and Maxwell's Footsteps*

**Michael D. Carrasco** (Florida State University)

*Conventions and Linguistic Tropes in Olmec Art and Writing*

**Ilona Zsolnay** (University of Pennsylvania)

*Writing, What was it Good for? An Investigation into Intent*

----- Coffee Break (10:50-11:00)-----§

### Panel 2 Probing Origins of Writing

Moderator: **Ching-I Tu** (Rutgers University) (11:00 – 12:30)

**Denise Schmandt-Besserat** (The University of Texas at Austin)

*Writing after Accounting in the Ancient Near East*

**Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos** (Yale University)

*A Comparative Approach to the Origin of Writing in Mesoamerica*

**Hui Wang** (Shaanxi Normal University)

*Methodology for Dating the Origin of Chinese Writing System*

----- Lunch (12:30-1:30)-----§

### Panel 3 Proto-writings, Art and Symbols

Moderator: **Tschanz, Dietrich** (Rutgers University) (1:30-3:00)

**Wang Yunzhi** (Henan University)

*Chinese Writing System Occurred in the Yellow River Basin*

**He Zhang** (William Paterson University)

*Identification of a Group of Olmec Jade Designs*

**Yongsheng Chen** (Brown University)

*A Comparative Study of the Determinative in Egyptian and Chinese*

----- Coffee Break (3:00-3:10)-----§

### Panel 4 Social and Cultural Context in the Formation of Writing

Moderator: **Richard Simmons** (Rutgers University) (3:10-5:40)

**David Mora Marin** (University of North Carolina)

*The Social and Cultural Context of Early Mayan Writing and the Development of Logographic and Logosyllabic Spelling Practices*

**Yaping Huang** (Shandong University)

*The Study of the Social Context of Literacy on the Oracle Bone Inscription in Shang Dynasty*

**Mingchorng Hwang** (Academia Sinica, Taipei)

*Rethinking the Origin of Chinese Writing: Gene, Ethnic Groups, and Writing Systems*

**Jonathan Smith** (Christopher Newport University)

*Writing Time: The Luni-Stellar Solution to the Origins of the Chinese Sexagenary Cycle, and the Problem of Indigeneity*

**John Darnell** (Yale University)

*Illustrated Rocks and Illuminated Bodies: the Ritual Cosmographic Precursors of Egyptian Writing*

----- Reception and Dinner (6:00-8:00)-----§

## SUNDAY MAY 31, 2015

### Panel 5 Archeology and the Origin of Writing Systems

Moderator: **Richard Simmons** (Rutgers University) (9:00-10:30)

**William A. Saturno and Franco Rossi** (Boston University)

*An Archeology of Early Maya Writing*

**Yushu Gong** (Peking University)

*Principles for Creating Signs Used in Ancient Writing Systems from Sumer, Egypt and China*

**Kuang Yu Chen** (Rutgers University)

*A Model for Dating the Genesis of the Chinese Writing System: Comparison with Other First Writings*

----- Coffee Break (10:30-10:40)-----§

### Panel 6 Transformation, Obsolescence, and Cataloguing

Moderator: **Xin Ning** (Jilin University) (10:40-12:10)

**Zhenhao Song** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing)

*Oracle Bone Inscriptions: Recent Work on Cataloguing*

**Philip Jones** (University of Pennsylvania)

*The Beginning of the End: Longer Term Perspectives on the Decline of Cuneiform in First Millennium BCE Babylonia*

**Joshua A. Roberson** (University of Pennsylvania)

*Whose Error, Anyway? Non-Standard Orthography, Cryptography, and the Transmission of Texts: The Case of the Egyptian Underworld Books*

----- Lunch (12:20-1:20)-----§

### Panel 7 Overview and Discussion

(1:30-2:30)

Panelists: Zhenhao Song, Sarah Allan, David Mora Marin, Michael Carrasco, Philip Jones, Ilona Zsolnay, Joshua Roberson, Leo Depuydt, Adam Schwartz