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**TABULA
RASA**

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The CSMC Mobile Lab and the non-destructive analysis of written artefacts: insights into inks and pigments on ancient papyri

Università di Napoli 'L'Orientale', Palazzo Corigliano
Antisala degli Specchi (4° piano)
Piazza San Domenico Maggiore 12, 80134 Napoli

Chair: Dr Silvia Pizzimenti, Università di Napoli 'Federico II'

Monday, April 20, 2026, 4:15 PM



Conference organized within the ERC project '*TabulaRasa* Clay, wax, and the impact of erasable writing technologies on manuscript cultures' (GA 101170566) <https://tabularasa.hypotheses.org>

Follow on zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85933478309>

About: The **Mobile Lab of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)** at the University of Hamburg was established with a clear ambition: to bring high-end scientific instrumentation directly to the written artefacts, rather than exposing fragile and irreplaceable objects to the risks of transportation. In this talk, we will present the Mobile Lab and the range of analytical techniques it offers, including multispectral and hyperspectral imaging, X-ray fluorescence spectrometry, Raman and FTIR spectroscopies and VIS-NIR spectrophotometry, among others. We will discuss the questions these methods can address, from the identification and classification of writing materials to provenance studies, authentication, and the recovery of damaged or hidden text. These possibilities will be illustrated with results from our ongoing research, with a special focus on inks and pigments in ancient papyri.



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