

CALL FOR PAPERS:
WORKSHOP IV
WORKING WITH TEXTS

Date: March 13–14, 2026
**Venue: PSK (4th Floor, Besprechungsraum 5),
Georg Coch-Platz 2, 1010, Wien**
Deadline for submissions: February 16, 2026
Notification of acceptance: February 23, 2026
Pre-circulated materials by: March 6, 2026
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A chief strength of the Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations" lies in the connections it fosters among scholars working on Eurasia across a wide range of disciplines. Whether we reconstruct past events from chronicles, interpret inscriptions and documentary remains, analyze manuscripts and editions, or contextualize artifacts that bear writing and traces of use, much of our work turns on the **interpretation of evidence under imperfect conditions**. It is precisely here that common ground emerges: while research topics vary greatly, many participants share overlapping aims, questions, and materials. At the same time, each discipline brings with it distinctive assumptions, methods, and working conditions. This workshop aims to bring these perspectives into conversation by reflecting explicitly and comparatively on how we work.

Rather than focusing on specific objects, periods, or results, the workshop foregrounds **methods, practices, and problems of text-based scholarship** in a broad sense. Contributors are invited to reflect on the concrete conditions of their research:

- What does "philology" or "textual criticism" mean in their discipline?
 - What counts as a text, a source, or an edition?
 - Which challenges are central – fragmentary corpora, translation layers, manuscript variance, theoretical constraints, or uneven access to resources – and how are these addressed in practice?
 - What do scholars aim to achieve through their work, and how are these aims secured through concrete methodological choices?
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By widening the disciplinary scope, the workshop seeks to make differences in approach visible and productive, allowing participants to learn from **methods, theoretical reflections, and problem-solving strategies** developed in neighboring fields. The format emphasizes extended presentations followed by open discussion and is especially intended to encourage early-career scholars to articulate and reflect on their own working practices within a supportive, cross-disciplinary setting. Given the workshop's wide linguistic and disciplinary range, participants should assume that others may not be familiar with the language(s) or specialized conventions of their sources. Contributions should therefore frame their materials and research problems in a way that is accessible to scholars from other fields, for instance by providing brief contextualization and, where relevant, translations or other aids.

This workshop invites early-career researchers from all institutions of the Cluster to explore text-related research problems on the basis of their own research materials—whether through a short passage of text, an image of an artifact, or a broader methodological or theoretical problem grounded in concrete sources. Participants may choose between **two formats**: either a conventional presentation (15 minutes) followed by discussion, or a discussion-based format in which materials are circulated in advance and briefly introduced (10 minutes) at the workshop before collective discussion. If opting for the latter format, materials distributed should be no longer than two pages.

To support exchange beyond the workshop, participants are encouraged to bring **references to key methodological or theoretical readings** from their discipline on working with texts, so that an interdisciplinary reading list can be compiled and distributed.

We invite all current and prospective members of JEARN who are interested in attending, as either presenters or participants, to register at the following link, and to **submit their abstracts here**:

[CfP - JEARN Workshop 4 - Working with Texts](#)

