

*Für Masterkandidat(inn)en, Doktorand(inn)en und  
Mitarbeiter(inn)en der Ägyptologie*

Seminarveranstaltung von

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**Mittwoch, 14.12.2016, 10:15-11:45**  
(Hegelstr. 59, Raum 00-309)

**Reading and readability of recorded information  
in the context of artistic production in Ancient Egypt.**

**The case of the Nobles Tombs of the 18th dynasty in the Theban Necropolis**



Abstract:

Ancient Egyptian civilization was characterized by a rather complex writing system that induced a quite restricted level of literacy within pharaonic population. In this context, although one can demonstrate that – most of – master artists responsible for the production of decorated monuments or monumental decoration (including hieroglyphic texts) were literate and often highly educated, it is clear that such was not the case for many craftsmen and actors in the artistic production.

Monumental production sites provide a vast amount of drawn or written pieces of information meant to be used in the making of those decorated monuments and ranging from truly written notes to purely iconic representations, like sketches or designs. The lecture will focus on the material relating to the Nobles tombs of the 18th dynasty (ca 1550-1292 BCE) in the Theban Necropolis, one of the most prominent cemeteries of the time. It will aim at showing the existence in the specific socio-professional context of artistic production of a parascriptural and even a paralinguistic use of pictograms derived from hieroglyphic scripts. By analyzing the visual and informational density of those signs, it will also address the implications of such an encoded communication mode on learning and creating art in Ancient Egypt.