



NINO-LEZING 22-11-2019

Veenhof-lezing: These Bones Live! Cuneiform Knowledge and Natural Knowledge

Prof. Dr Francesca Rochberg

Veenhof Lecture

Friday 22 November 2019

Main language: English

In "These Bones Live!" Francesca Rochberg reflects on three aspects of her research in Assyriology. The first is Babylonian scribal scholarship and cuneiform intellectual culture. Second is how cuneiform knowledge, especially of heavenly phenomena, relates to the history of science. Last is how the field of Assyriology is situated in today's world and how politics have shaped and continue to shape our knowledge of the ancient Middle East.

One of Assyriology's most important intellectual forefathers, A. Leo Oppenheim, referred to what he called "ever-recurring blackouts of knowledge," that is, the gaps between available sources and the despair of ever filling them. The frequency and magnitude of those lacunae caused Oppenheim to ask, "can these bones live?". According to Francesca Rochberg they can, and they do!

Prof. Dr Francesca Rochberg is Professor of Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. A short introduction will be given by Dr Mathieu Ossendrijver.

Annual Veenhof Lecture

The Veenhof Lecture is organized every November by the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in cooperation with the National Museum of Antiquities. Named after Prof. K.R. Veenhof and honouring his contributions to Assyriology, the annual lecture is aimed at colleagues and students, as well as a broader public. The speaker is an internationally renowned scholar. All are welcome to attend the lecture.

Time: 20.00 hrs (doors open from 19.30 hrs)


Venue: National Museum of Antiquities (RMO; Rapenburg 28, Leiden), Taffeh Hall

Admission: free; please register through the RMO website.



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