

• UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ •

THE MORTEXVAR CONFERENCE



14-16/09/2022

The MORTEXVAR (Earlier Egyptian Mortuary Texts Variability) project is based at the University of Alcalá and financed by the Madrid Region Atracción de Talento programme (2019-2023). The project focuses on the general, operative concept of **variability** in the Pyramid Texts and Coffin Texts, and other related texts and materials. You may have a quick look at the project at www.mortexvar.com.

The conference intends to reflect on a pre-print collective volume of the MORTEXVAR project, which includes 17 contributions about different aspects of variability as a main criterium to retrieve information from the sources. This criterium articulates in three leads:

- **Individuals:** Study cases that are particularly telling not only about their individuality but about how and why they are exceptional within the bigger picture.
- **Groups.** Study cases of groups that may constitute substreams within mainstream traditions or minor streams outside the mainstream.
- **Tracers.** Elements of variability in the mainstream that allow us to trace change, innovation or disparity processes, including errors and corrections.

The aim of the three leads is to provide a holistic picture to permit assessing the connections between what are usually seen as “elements” of a “system” and the “system” itself; and to ultimately review those two concepts (element, system) which are critical to the Western conceptual frame.



This procedure (book plus conference) contrasts with the usual conference plus proceedings volume academic standard and permits to provide feedback to an already matured work with which all the contributors are familiar. In doing so, it has the advantage of allowing a more precise and unimprovised feedback on the contributions and, not less unimportantly, on the three leads proposed to inspire a structure of the collective work produced around the operative concept “variability”.

The resulting book and conference are expected to offer a showcase covering fields of study that englobe archaeology, history, philology, linguistics, visual arts and multidisciplinary approaches.

The conference will be held online on the afternoons (14:00-17:00 h. CET) of the 14th, 15th and 16th of September 2022, and will be structured in three sessions.

1. Individuals - 14/09/2022

Chair: Zsuzsanna Végh, University of Edinburgh

14:00 – 14:15 h. Presentation

14:15 – 14:30 h. Julia Hamilton, Macquarie University, Sydney

Secondary epigraphy and interaction with transfigured dead: The case of Nikauizezi, Saqqara

14:30 – 14:45 h. Veronika Dulíková & Marie Hloučová Peterková, Charles University, Prague

Decorated coffin of king's ornament Setib buried at Abusir

14:45 – 15:00 h. Angela McDonald, University of Glasgow

Putting intentions in their place: materialising meaning through spatial dynamics in Appeals to the Dead

(In absentia). Jean-Pierre Pätznick, Université Paris-Sorbonne, Paris

From Khenti-Mentiu to Khenti-Imentiu: Mirror of the evolution of the royal funerary sphere from the Early Dynastic to the Osirian revolution in the Old Kingdom

15:00 – 15:15 h. César Guerra Méndez & Carlos Gracia Zamacona, Universidad de Alcalá

Osiris as written in the Pyramid Texts and the Coffin Texts

15:15 – 15:30 h. Break

15:30 – 17:00 h. Discussion

2. Groups - 15/09/2022

Chair: Rune Nyord, Emory University, Atlanta

14:00 – 14:05 h. Presentation

14:05 – 14:20 h. Seria Yamazaki, Waseda University

Repeating the ritual under the ground: Performance of the royal object ritual in the Middle Kingdom

14:20 – 14:35 h. Juan Carlos Moreno García, CNRS, Paris

dmjw, n(j)wtj “citizen” in the Pyramid Texts and the Coffin Texts in the context of the social and political changes that occurred in Egypt at the turn of the 3rd millennium BC

14:35 – 14:50 h. Christelle Alvarez, Brown University

New spells, new compilations, and the concept of variability in sequences of Pyramid and Coffin Texts

14:50 – 15:05 h. Anne Landborg, Independent scholar

Becoming Wind? Considerations on transformation and identification in marginal Coffin Text spells.

15:05 – 15:15 h. Yannick A. Wiechmann, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

The many ways of escaping from the fishing net: Regarding variability and prehistory of a spell group

15:15 – 15:30 h. Antonio J. Morales, Universidad de Alcalá

TBD

15:30 – 15:45 h. Break

15:45 – 17:00 h. Discussion



3. Tracers - 16/09/2022

Chair: Andréas Stauder, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris

14:00 – 14:05 h. Presentation

14:05 – 14:20 h. Jorke Grotenhuis, University of California, Berkeley / The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Variation in the graphical form of the first-person stative ending in the Coffin Texts

14:20 – 14:35 h. Gersande Eschenbrenner Diemer, Universidad de Alcalá

(Re)connecting artefacts and thinking in the afterlife: the case of funerary wooden models

14:35 – 14:50 h. M. Victoria Almansa-Villatoro, Harvard University

Variation as a Social Device: “Middle Egyptianisms” in Old Kingdom Letters

14:50 – 15:05 h. Dina Serova, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Problematizing linguistic variation in the Coffin Texts: A case-study on spell CT 335

15:05 – 15:15 h. Elisabeth Kruck, Universität Wien

Occurrences of grave goods and their representations on coffins: A concept of substitution?

15:15 – 15:30 h. James P. Allen, Brown University, Providence

Scribal factors in the transmission of the Pyramid Texts

15:30 – 15:45 h. Break

15:45 – 17:00 h. Discussion & announcement



Registration

Participation in the online conference is free upon registration.

Email to mortexvar@gmail.com stating your name, affiliation (if applicable) and brief motivation to register.



Courtesy of the **MKTP**

Organised by Carlos Gracia Zamacona,
director of the MORTEXVAR project.

With the assistance of María Ribes Lafoz and Ernesto Graf.

