

The Ninth Biennial Francis Bacon Conference Lecture



BABYLONIAN HOROSCOPY AND GENETHLIALOLOGY



After approximately 500 BCE Babylonian celestial divination and late Babylonian astrological and non-mathematical astronomical texts formed a well-integrated complex within which the study of births in the form of natal astrology played a central role. While rooted in divination from ominous heavenly phenomena, Babylonian genethliology was an innovative practice necessitating the twelve zodiacal signs and developments in astronomy beyond the schematics of MUL.APIN and other early first millennium astronomical texts for the production of a new kind of astrological text. In the absence of a native term for this new genre in late Babylonian Akkadian, modern scholarship variously uses the term “horoscope” or “proto-horoscope” as its designation. This talk addresses the question of horoscopy and genethliology in late Babylonian astral sciences and discusses its place in the larger framework of the history of astrology.

Friday, May 19, 2023

**4:00PM • Baxter Lecture Hall
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

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Caltech <https://bit.ly/francisbacon2023>

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