

Matter, Media, Milieu

Ecologies of Writing and Making from Early Modernity to the Digital Age

A day of interdisciplinary round-table discussions organised by the [Writing Technologies Network](#)
Convenors: Marie Thebaud-Sorger (Centre Alexandre-Koyré) and Jennifer Oliver (Harvard)
Maison Française d'Oxford, May 27th 2026, 10am-4pm

10.00: Coffee and welcome

10.20: Landscapes of Knowledge

Understanding the material and intellectual milieux of knowledge creation: exploring hand(i)work and the 'mindful hand'; the conception of material and narrative 'models'; technologies and epistemes; the force and agency of metaphors and analogies.

- Discussants to include: Tina Asmussen, Amelia Hutchinson, Michael Drolet, Caroline Callard

12.00: Lunch

13.00: Bodies at Scale

Resituating the human body – so often the default unit of measurement in our histories – at multiple scales; from the senses, via early modern understandings of the elements, to cosmologies; overlapping ontologies, the Anthropocene in the early modern, the integration of body/technology and environment.

- Discussants to include: Yelda Nasifoglu, Leonardo Carrio, Matthew Landrus, Viktoria von Hoffmann

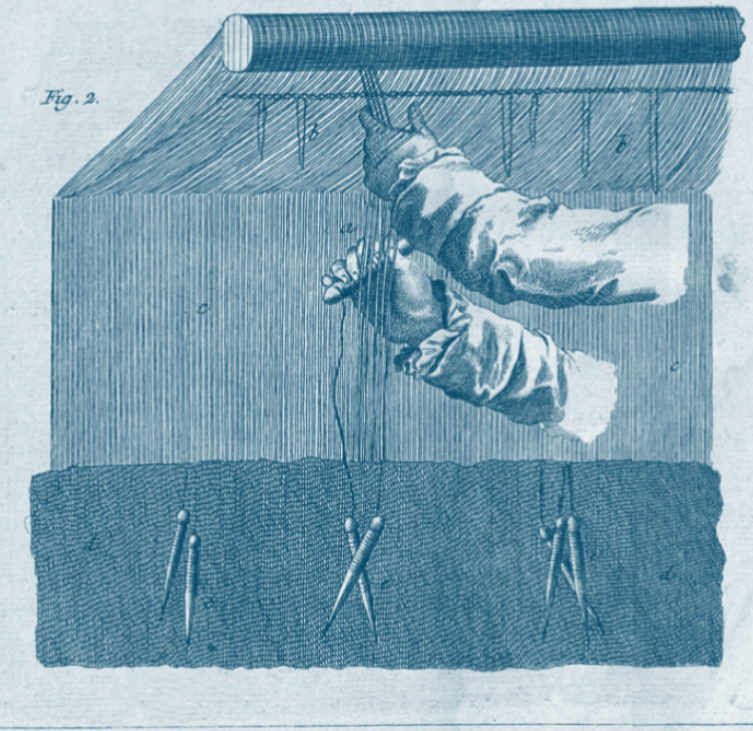
14.30: Tea break

14.45: Re-materialising the Digital

Considering the long history of the 'digital' in the context of other writing technologies; evaluating the impacts of digital and material archives and objects on new knowledge-making about the past, and in catalysing new approaches and methods.

- Discussants to include: Simon Dumas-Primbault, Jennifer Oliver

16.00: Close of public event; network members remain for steering meeting.



*Tapisserie de Haute Lisse des Gobelins.
Service de la Broche.*

Image: Textiles: tapestry weaving, two close-up views of hands weaving.
Engraving by R. Benard after Radel. Wellcome Collection.

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