



MagEIA

Magic between Entanglement, Interaction and Analogy
KFG 42 - Centre for the Study of Magical Text Traditions of
West Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean in Antiquity

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Julius-Maximilians-

**UNIVERSITÄT
WÜRZBURG**

3rd MagEIA Symposium

Persuasion and Request 2-4 December 2026

We are pleased to announce the 3rd International MagEIA Symposium "Persuasion and Request" to be held in Würzburg on 2-4 December 2026

This year's symposium is dedicated to the legomena of ritual procedures and the specialized language of magical texts. Magical practices in many cultures combine detailed ritual actions with prescribed utterances essential to their effectiveness. These range from voces magicae and lists of divine names to hymns and invocations addressing supernatural beings. The proper use of language - including knowledge of secret names, correct pronunciation, and multilingual divine epithets - was considered crucial for the success of rituals.

Call for Papers

We would like to invite papers from various disciplines addressing questions of language use in magical texts including e.g. the following:

- How does language use in magical texts differ from those of other types of ritual texts?
- What are specific features or "magical language"?
- What are the connections between the language of magical texts and other genres such as legal texts?
- How did the legomena change over time in different magical traditions?
- How have magical traditions in various languages influenced each other in terms of loanwords, calques or larger building blocks of ritual texts?
- How do the legomena interact with the other elements of magical practices such as the materia magica and the procedures?

