

The Cluster of Excellence  
**Understanding Written Artefacts**  
cordially invites you to a Thursday Lecture by

**Professor Dr Nikolai Grube**  
Universität Bonn

## **Reconstructing a Lost Manuscript Culture: The Books of the Maya**

Thursday, 24 November 2022, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm CET  
Warburgstraße 26, 20354 Hamburg

Hybrid event

Registration:

<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/en/register-lecture27>

The Maya book culture is one of the little-known ancient manuscript cultures. This is due to the extinction of this writing tradition during the Spanish conquest in the 16th century, but also to the natural decay of Maya books in the tropical climate. Only four Maya manuscripts have survived to the present day and are now kept in Mexico and in European libraries. They provide a small glimpse of Maya book culture on the eve of the Spanish conquest. However, the Maya produced and wrote screenfold manuscripts already during the classic period (250-900 CE). In my presentation I would like to show that the production, materiality, use and storage of the lost books from the Classic Maya can be reconstructed based on evidence from archaeological finds, vase paintings and other images, but also from written texts in Maya hieroglyphic writing.