The Materiality of Divine Agency
in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
New York University

April 29, 2011
8:30 am - 6:00 pm
ISAW Seminar Room

Organized by Prof. Dr. Beate Pongratz-Leisten, ISAW
8:30  Coffee

9:00  Beate Pongratz-Leisten, ISAW
Introduction

9:15  Caroline Bynum, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
*Bread and Wine as Divine Materiality: Why Do Material Manifestations of the Christian Divine Increase in the Later Middle Ages?*

10.00  Joan Goodnick Westenholz, ISAW
*Material Modalities of Inana / Ishtar*

10:45  Break

11:00  Karen Sonik, ISAW
*Hands of the Gods and Apotropaia in Mesopotamian Incantations and Iconography*

11:45  Daniel Fleming, New York University
*Seeing and Socializing with Dagan at Emar’s zukru Festival*

12:30  Lunch Break

13:30  Barbara Kowalzig, New York University
*Pistoí theoi: Anthropomorphism and the Language of Belief in Ancient Greece*

14:15  Milette Gaifman, Yale University
*The Spectrum of Iconicity: from the Iconic to the Aniconic*

15:00  David Levene, New York University
*The Statue of Olympian Zeus between Homer and Rome*

15:45  Break

16:00  Michael Puett, Harvard University
*Ghosts and Gods, Humans and Divinities: The Formation and Transformation of Objects and Agencies in Early Chinese Sacrificial Practice*

16:45  David Wengrow, University College London
Response

17:15  Final Discussion