

**“Trees, Birds, and Funny Words”  
A Symposium in Honor of Professor Niek Veldhuis**

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
UC Berkeley  
470 Stephens Hall**

**Morning Session**

- 9:00–9:15 Welcome Remarks, Benjamin Porter, UC Berkeley, & Jay Crisostomo, University of Michigan
- 9:20–9:35 Eduardo Escobar, University of Bologna  
“Reshaping Procedural Knowledge in Cuneiform Cultures” (recorded)
- 9:40–10:00 Francesca Rochberg, UC Berkeley  
“The Order-of-the-World: Things, Lumps, and Texts”
- 10:05–10:25 Daniel Boyarin, UC Berkeley  
“Some Babylonian Aramaic Proverbs in the Talmud”
- 10:25–10:45 *Coffee Break*
- 10:45–11:05 Rita Lucarelli, UC Berkeley  
“Cuneiform Studies, Egyptology and Digital Humanities: Overcoming Insularity in the Study of the Ancient Middle East”
- 11:10–11:30 Mason Wilks, Johns Hopkins University  
“Getting the Joke: New Observations on Wordplay in Sumerian Proverb Collection 2”
- 11:30–12:45 Lunch**

**Afternoon Session**

- 12:45–1:05 Kiersten Neumann, University of Chicago  
“What’s in a Name? Classification and the Aesthetic Values of Stones”
- 1:10–1:30 Marian Feldman, Johns Hopkins University  
“Is there a Mesopotamian Ontology?”
- 1:35–1:55 Jason Moser, UC Berkeley  
“Visualizing and Measuring Text Similarity: The OBEL Corpus”
- 1:55–2:15 *Coffee Break*
- 2:15–2:30 Jay Crisostomo, University of Michigan  
“A New Eduba Text: Eduba V”
- 2:30–2:45 Future of the Field Discussions
- 2:45–3:15 Celebratory Reflections (in person & from afar)
- 3:15–3:30 Niek Veldhuis, UC Berkeley, Response