

## John Z. Wee

**John Z. Wee** took up his appointment as a Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar and Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) on August 1, 2012. At the Oriental Institute's fall 2012 mini-series on Medicine and Magic in the Ancient World: A Search for the Cure, he presented a lecture on "Mesopotamian Texts and the Knowledge Assumptions of Medical Diagnosis" and participated in the joint panel discussion (October 27, 2012). He is also organizing an international and interdisciplinary symposium on "The Body in Ancient Medicine" (Oriental Institute, May 2-4, 2014), papers from which will be published as a symposium volume (Oriental Institute Seminars). The symposium has already received wide support from co-sponsors such as the Oriental Institute, the Center for the Study of Ancient Religions, the Morris Fishbein Center, the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, Dean Martha Roth of the Humanities Division, and the departments of Classics and NELC. Additional funding from the Franke Institute for the Humanities is currently under consideration.

John has been revising his 2012 dissertation (Yale University) for publication as two separate books. Brill Academic Press has already accepted one book (*Knowledge and Rhetoric in Medical Commentary: Mesopotamian Commentaries on the Diagnostic Series Sa-gig*) for publication in its Culture and History of the Ancient Near East (CHANE) series. Another book (*Medical Diagnosis in Ancient Iraq*) is still under revision and review, but should be released in 2014 or 2015. John's article on "Lugalbanda Under the Night Sky: Scenes of Celestial Healing in Ancient Mesopotamia" will be published in the April 2014 issue of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. From June 29 to July 1, 2012, he participated in a Classics conference on *HOMO PATIENS: Approaches to the Patient in the Ancient World* (Berlin), and his paper on "Case History as Minority Report in the Hippocratic Epidemics I" is forthcoming in Brill's Studies in Ancient Medicine (SAM) series. Another article entitled "Grieving with the Moon: Pantheon and Politics in the Lunar Eclipse" is being reviewed at the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*.

At the 223rd meeting of the American Oriental Society (Portland, March 15-18, 2013), John was part of a panel on Empiricism in Mesopotamian Technical Literature and presented a paper on "Medical Signs as Signs: The Immediacy of Experience in the Diagnostic Series Sa-gig." Since the contents of this paper were already to be published in his books, he agreed to contribute another essay to the forthcoming conference volume. John will speak on "Measurements in Babylonian Drawings of Planets and Star Constellations" at the twenty-fourth international congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine (Manchester, July

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22–28, 2013). This presentation builds on an earlier paper presented as a Brown-bag Lunch Talk at the Oriental Institute on January 30, 2013, and it represents John's ongoing research on the micro-zodiac. For his participation in the congress, he received grant assistance from the European Research Council.

John is working with Professor Eckart Frahm from Yale University on a digital project that aims to publish searchable cuneiform editions and translations of commentaries online. John is responsible for commentaries on the Diagnostic Series Sa-gig, which he edited as part of his 2012 dissertation. From June to August 2013 he will be at the British Museum archives working on cuneiform tablets and fragments of *Enūma Anu Enlil* astrological commentaries.

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