

Reading Herculaneum Material using Synchrotron Light Sources

Dr Jens Dopke

29th March 12pm 50 Auditorium



Since their discovery in the mid 18th century, papyri from the only preserved library of the antiquity in Herculaneum have largely eluded being read. During the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79 AD, the library contents was carbonised, preserving it but also rendering it physically inaccessible.

This talk will explore a variety of approaches to read the scrolls including using beamlines at Diamond Light Source (I12/B16) and the Canadian Light Source (BMIT).

Dr Jens Dopke studied physics at the University of Wuppertal, Germany, finishing his PhD in particle physics in 2011 on the ATLAS Pixel and IBL detectors. He then moved to CERN as a Fellow on the ATLAS Pixel nSQP project and final testing of the IBL. Now a senior staff scientist at STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Jens works on ATLAS ITK Strips, CMOS detectors for particle physics, and has spent the last ten years of his spare time, trying to make Herculaneum material readable.

Coffee and cookies provided!

