

ASTERISMS –

*The Relations among their Verbal,
Numerical, and Visual Representations
across Cultures
in Research and Public Outreach*

HYBRID PUBLIC EVENT

14 February, 6:00-6:45 pm

Pre-registration is required for in-person and online participation. Visit: <https://bit.ly/4b9DbTp>

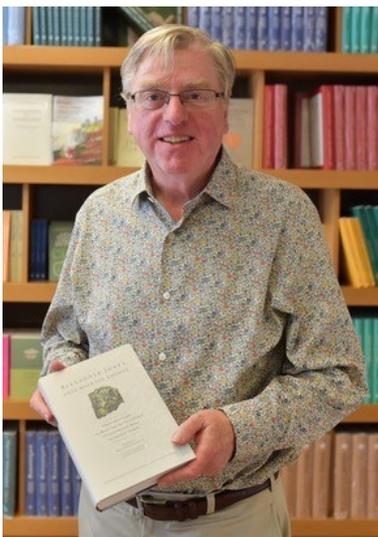
The astral sciences and early cultures: why do we study them, and how do we share our interest with the public?

**Alexander Jones (ISAW, NYU) in conversation with
Sonja Brentjes (IAS, MPIWG)**

Alexander Jones will present a brief survey on his experience, as a faculty member and director of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (NYU), with different approaches to the study of the astral sciences in early cultures and the presentation of the research results to varied audiences in academia and beyond. He will answer questions by Sonja Brentjes on how, during his time at ISAW, changes have occurred in the ways that researchers and audiences have come together, exchanged views and insights, and found new paths for exploring the wealth of historical artifacts testifying to the multifaceted engagement of people of long gone times with the night sky and its marvels and threats.



Time and Cosmos exhibition



A Classicist by original training, Alexander Jones did his doctoral study in the History of Mathematics Department at Brown University, specializing in the history of the astral and mathematical sciences in Greco-Roman antiquity. After serving two decades in the Department of Classics of the University of Toronto, he joined New York University's newly founded Institute for the Study of the Ancient World as its second faculty member in 2008. He is currently approaching the end of an eight-year term as ISAW's Leon Levy Director.

Jones's research on the history of ancient astronomy centers on the Hellenistic and Roman imperial periods, encompassing observational and theoretical aspects as well as the public face of science. He has studied and edited hundreds of papyri with astronomical contents, most notably in his volume of *Astronomical Papyri from Oxyrhynchus*, which exposed for the first time the range of astronomical practices and resources of the astrologers of Roman Egypt and revealed how extensively this tradition was indebted to Babylonian astronomy. He has also worked with epigraphic sources and material culture, including leadership of the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project's publication of the first comprehensive and accurate editions of the texts inscribed on and inside the Mechanism's fragments. His 2017 book *A Portable Cosmos* presents a broad and accessible account of the Mechanism in the light of recent research and in the broader context of ancient astronomy and Greco-Roman society. Ptolemy constitutes a third focus of Jones's interest, and next year he hopes to complete a monograph that will situate Ptolemy's astronomical works within his larger program of writing on the gamut of the mathematical and physical sciences.

White-Levy Room, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
Sponsor: Sabine Schmidtke, IAS; Convenor: Sonja Brentjes, IAS and MPIWG
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