

## Conference “Mistakes and the study of manuscripts” 2016

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### Distinguishing between temporal layers of discrepancies

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*Errors and corrections in some manuscripts of Aristotle and Galen*

**Abstract** – Errors and corrections or attempted corrections in manuscripts are important tools for the reconstruction of the work of scribes and scholars and for determining the role a manuscript played in the transmission. Errors which are due to a misreading or misinterpreting of the palaeographical form of a certain manuscript constitute the clearest evidence to demonstrate that two or more manuscripts belong to a circle of production and rewriting. The tendency of scribes to commit errors or a noticeable ability to detect or even correct them provides us with important data to investigate the intellectual settings in which the manuscripts were used, annotated and revised. Sometimes creative errors in the manuscript tradition could have been the origin of variant readings which inspire scholarly discussions until the present day. Focussing on manuscripts of Aristotle and Galen this paper will discuss examples of such errors and corrections.