



## The Rediscovery of Vesalius' Fabrica. Workshop with Dr. Mark Somos (Yale)

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Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica* is the foundational work of modern anatomy. First published in Basel in 1543, the *Fabrica* revised Galenic orthodoxy on human physiology, turned this mostly text-based discipline into a visual enterprise, and enriched it with countless observations. Partly because of its lavish illustrations, many assume that the book was designed to secure Vesalius the position of court physician to Charles V, and was therefore printed in small numbers. One scholar called it a "book that nobody read"; another argued that it was bought more than read; and some still regard it as a coffee table book for the ultra-rich.

The workshop presents and discusses a project which aims at finding and describing all copies of the 1543 and 1555 Basel editions, the two that Vesalius himself supervised. The project has identified considerably more copies than previous censuses, and reached a better understanding of distribution and movement. The new census also transforms our knowledge of reading practices, censorship, the interplay between surgical practice and teaching and image and text, and the appeal to observation and ancient and modern authorities.

This workshop presents comprehensive results, theoretical and practical methodology, and invites students to acquire or extend skills by examining Basel copies.

When: 15.12.2016 Where: Kanonegasse 27, 4051 Basel, Time: 9.30 am - 1.00 pm.

Registration: For all participants: via Flexiform no later than 1st December 2016; For PhD students aiming to earn 1 ECTS point: Please fill in additionally a Learning Contract.