

The New Empedocles Papyrus. The Theory of Effluences and Sense Perceptions

Workshop with [Oliver Primavesi](#)

December 17, 2025, 10am–1pm
CFvWZ, Hörsaal, Doblerstraße 33

Empedocles on Effluences and Sense Perception:

The New Empedocles Papyrus *P.Fouad* inv. 218

Abstract: The papyrus fragment *P.Fouad* inv. 218 is kept in the *Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire*. It was written by the same hand as the so-called “Strasburg Empedocles” and identified as Empedoclean by Nathan Carlig in January 2021. The *editio princeps*, with full introduction, translation, and commentary, was prepared between spring 2022 and summer 2025 by N. Carlig, Alain Martin, and Oliver Primavesi, and is now in print. The papyrus contains parts of 30 hitherto unknown verses of Empedocles’ *Physica*, which deal with the theory of effluences (1st column) and its application to sense perception via pores (2nd column), with special emphasis on sight. Hitherto, the theory in question was known only via the reports provided by later authors from Plato and Aristotle onwards: therefore, it is of considerable interest to compare these reports with the firsthand evidence now available.