Conference Schedule
Swift Hall, 3rd Floor Lecture Room

Tuesday, May 12
3:00pm – Dean Margaret Mitchell, welcome address

3:30pm – Keynote Lecture: Reimund Leicht, Department of Jewish Thought, Hebrew University
“Characterizing Astrology in the Arab-Muslim World”

Wednesday, May 13
9:25am – Opening remarks by Elizabeth Sartell

9:30am – Session One
Chair: Alireza Doostdar, Divinity School, University of Chicago
9:30am – Matthew Melvin-Koushki, Department of History, University of South Carolina
“Conjuncting Astrology: The Interrelation of the Mathematical Occult Sciences in the Premodern Persianate Tradition”
Discussant: Daniel Stolz, Department of History, Northwestern University
10:30am – Noah Gardiner, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
“Esotericist Astrology in Ahmad al-Būnī’s Laṭā‘if al-īshārāt fī al-hurūf al-‘ulwīyāt”
Discussant: Francesca Chubb-Confer, Divinity School, University of Chicago
11:30am – open questions

12:00pm – break for lunch

1:15pm – Session Two
Chair: Ortal-Paz Saar, Department of Classics, University of Chicago
1:15pm – Marla Segol, Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage, SUNY University at Buffalo
“Astrology, Medicine, Microcosm and Magic: The Mechanics of Theurgy in the Shiur Qomah, the Sefer Yetzirah, and their Interpreters”
Discussant: Shandra Lamaute, Divinity School, University of Chicago
2:15pm – Enrico Raffaelli, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto
“Astrology and Religion in the 9th-century Zoroastrian Texts”
Discussant: Edmund Hayes, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
3:15pm – coffee break
3:30pm – Josefina Rodriguez-Aribas, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität-Erlangen-Nürnberg
“At the Service of Divination: Astrological Instruments and Astrological Techniques”
Discussant: Jessica Andruss, Divinity School, University of Chicago
4:30pm – open questions
Thursday, May 14

9:25am – Opening remarks by Shandra Lamaute

9:30am – Session Three

Chair: Adrian Johns, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, University of Chicago

9:30am – Ahmet Tunç Şen, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
“An Ottoman Shaykh al-Islam in Support of Astrology: Kemal Pashazade (d. 1534) and his Treatise on Talismans”
Discussant: Mohamad Ballan, Department of History, University of Chicago

10:30am – Teri Gee, Department of Physics, Brigham Young University Idaho
“Astrology vs. Astronomy in Abu Ma’shar’s Kitab al-Madkhal al-Kabir”
Discussant: Nora Jacobsen Ben Hammed, Divinity School, University of Chicago

11:30am – open questions

12:00pm – break for lunch

1:15pm – Session Four

Chair: James Robinson, Divinity School, University of Chicago

1:15pm – Robert Morrison, Department of Religion, Bowdoin College
“Astrology as Jewish Philosophy”
Discussant: Yoni Shemesh, Divinity School, University of Chicago

2:15pm – Godefroid de Callataÿ, Institut des Civilisations, Arts et Lettres, Université Catholique de Louvain
“Why was Astrology so Important to the Authors of the Rasā’il Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’?”
Discussant: Elizabeth Sartell, Divinity School, University of Chicago

3:15pm – open questions

3:45pm – Closing remarks by Shandra Lamaute and Elizabeth Sartell

4:15pm – Reception in the Swift Hall Common Room (first floor)