



Mladen Popović is Professor for Old Testament and Ancient Judaism, and Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen

**FREE ENTRANCE**

**LANGUAGE**  
English

**RSVP & INFO**  
secretary@knir.it  
(+39) 06.3269621

Royal Netherlands  
Institute in Rome  
Via Omero 10  
00197 Roma  
www.knir.it

## SEMINAR

Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome  
21 January 2020, 13.30h.



# *Raiders of the Lost Scrolls: Artificial Intelligence, Radiocarbon Dating and the Scribes of the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Prof.dr. Mladen Popović (University of Groningen)

In this seminar Mladen Popović will share the work-in-progress of the ERC-project 'The Hands that Wrote the Bible'. The Dead Sea Scrolls are anonymous and most are not internally dated. They are tangible evidence of an ancient community that was socially centered around texts. The use of style development and writer identification tools is crucial for generating new data that may help to answer two simple questions about the people behind the scrolls: when was a manuscript written and who wrote it?

A large part of the talk will focus on the quantitatively based fundamentals of the project, such as the development of a triple-perspective time-axis calibration for tracking writing style development over time and the development of an automatic writer identification through deep learning of a neural network. How are such tools developed and how can different disciplines work together to reach such common goals?

