

MARK16 PRIMA SNF project Digital New Testament Studies

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<https://digitalhumanitiesplus.sib.swiss>

 @MARKchap16

The Project

MARK16 is a PRIMA SNF project developing a new research model in digitized biblical sciences, based on a test case found in the New Testament: the last chapter of the Gospel according to Mark. The goal of the project is to create a virtual research environment, that will be the reference website for textual criticism and exegesis of Mark 16, allowing to compare researchers' hypotheses.

SNF website: <http://p3.snf.ch/project-179755>

It has just started in October 2018 and will go until September 2023.

Mk 16,8 at stake

Mk 16,8 is a famous enigma in New Testament textual criticism. The two oldest witnesses we have are Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus (4th century CE); they conclude the second gospel without Jesus appearance stories, in this way: "So they [the women] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (Mk 16,8). **Apart from these two codices and the 12th century minuscule 304, all the other manuscripts present endings that continue on after Mk 16,8, and most often the longer Mk 16,9-20.** No convincing historico-cultural explanation has been demonstrated so far to explain the diversity of the manuscript evidence in this chapter. The enigma is added to by the fact that no manuscript evidence of Mk 16,8 preceding the 4th century has survived.

International collaborations

Leif Isaksen, Exeter University, UK
Jennifer Knust, Duke University, USA (since January 2019)
Valérie Nicolet, IPT, Paris
Laurent Romary, INRIA, FR
Joseph Verheyden, Leuven, Belgium
Peter Williams, Tyndale House, UK

Outputs

5-7 November 2018, Paris, Conference PLURITEXT –
"Textual plurality in the Bible"

Claire Clivaz, «Mk 16,8 and the manuscripts evidences : listen to the scribal voices»

Conference website : <https://pluritext.sciencesconf.org/>

Teaching

2 October 2018, DH master course, PARIS, IPT

Claire Clivaz, «Découvrir les *Digital Humanities*»

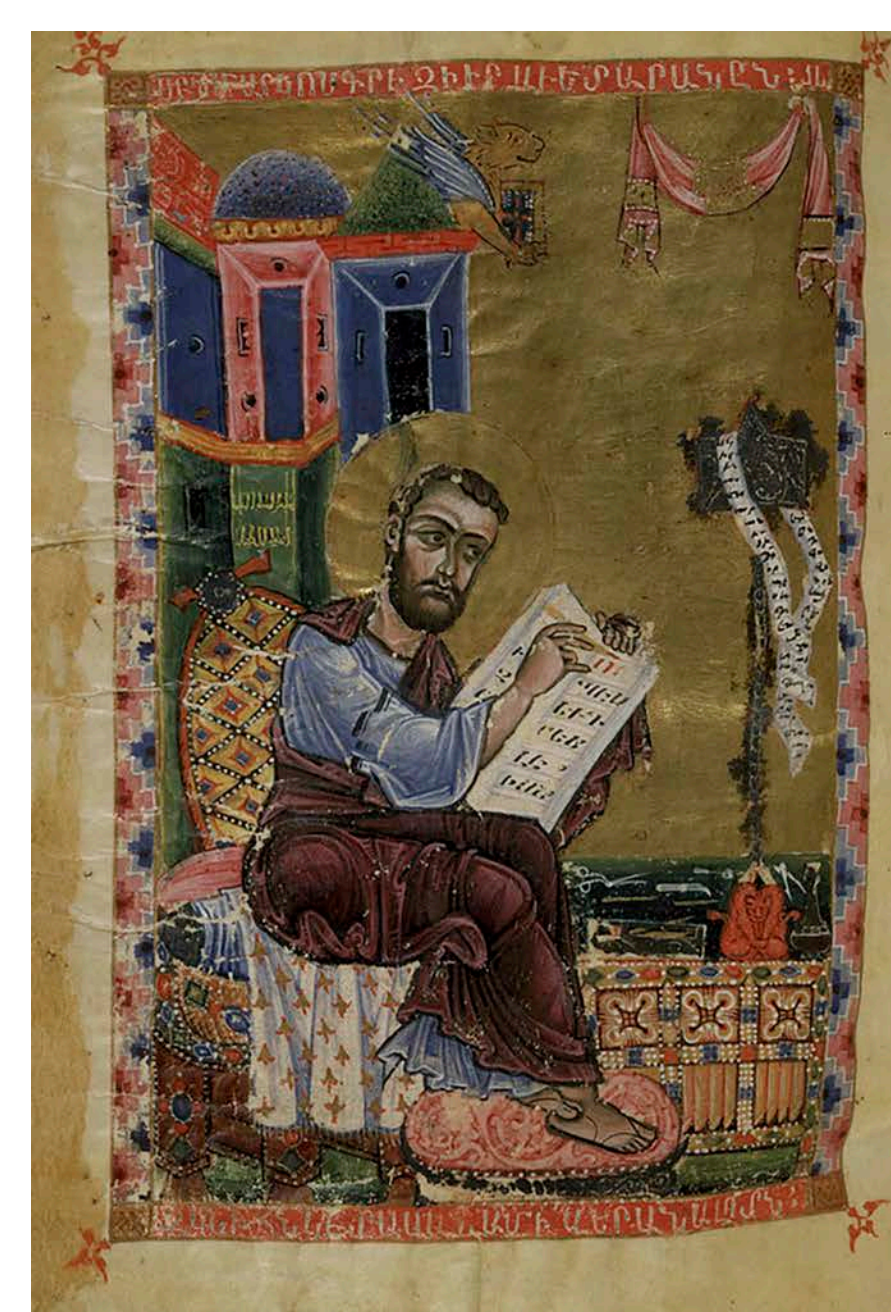
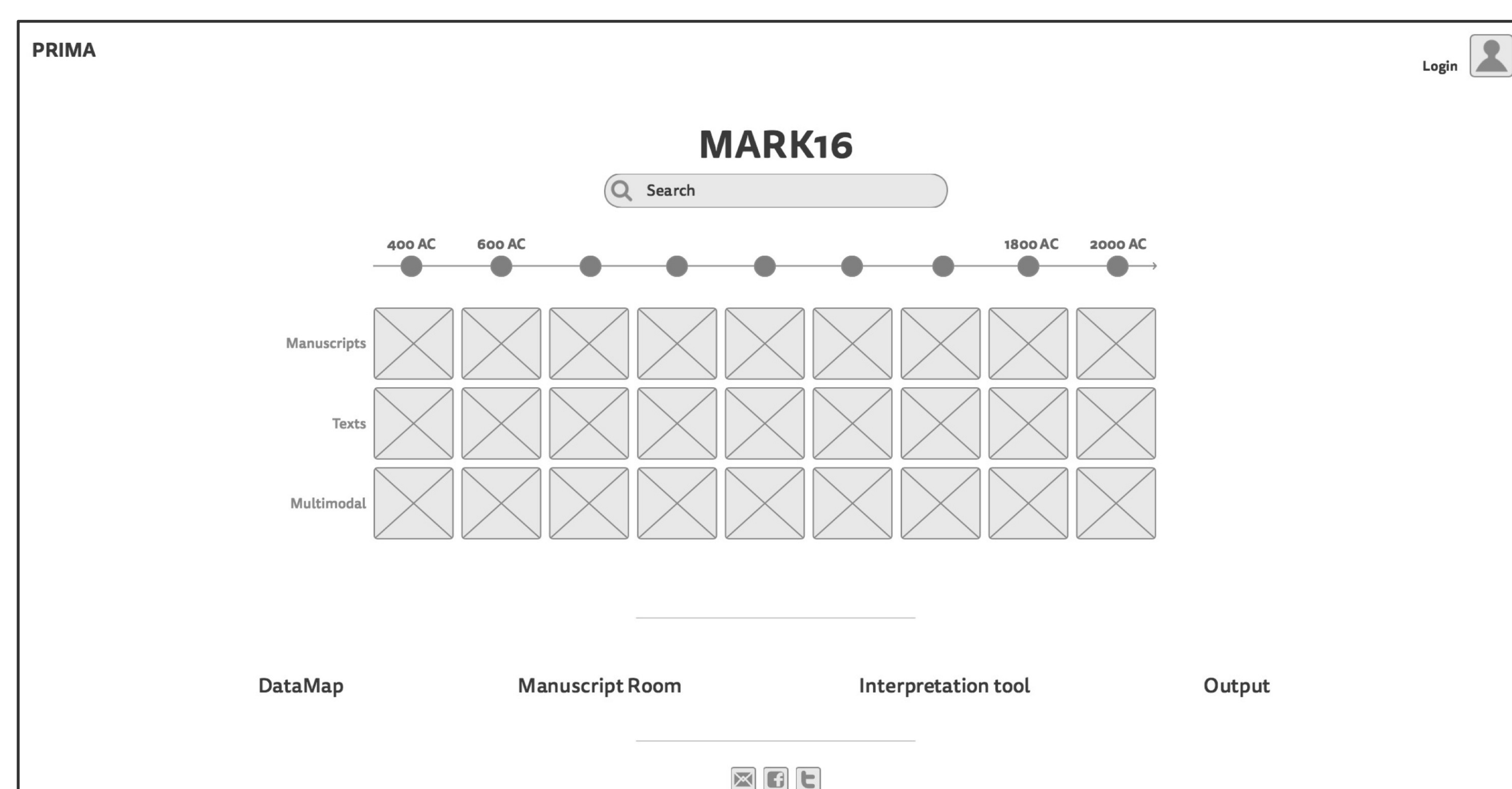
A blog has been open: <https://digitalhumanitiesplus.sib.swiss/#/project/mark16>

An eTalk has been published on our blog:
https://etalk.vital-it.ch/?dir=Mark16_DH#0

The Virtual Research Environment

MARK16 is the first virtual research environment (VRE) focused on a biblical chapter and inaugurates a new research model for the digitized Humanities. The chosen topic is a famous enigma in New Testament studies: certain manuscripts evidences do not have an apparition of the resurrected Jesus at the end of the Gospel according to Mark. Presenting in the historical order the research matter, this VRE will become the reference place for textual criticism and exegesis of Mark 16, and will allow **to visualize the «story of the winners and the losers»**, according to the French historian François Hartog's expression.

The material available in open access or with copyright, included the audio-visual material, will be presented on the VRE according to a historical scale; a new tool, the interpretation tool, will be created to allow the multimodal comparison of the hypotheses, including this one of the PI: the Gospel according to Mark had a previous ending, lost or destroyed, before the endings transmitted from the 4th century by the manuscripts evidences; **the complexity of the textual variants illustrates the Ancient topos of people emotions in front of dead alive apparitions**, and shows historically the tensions existing between Christian trends at the 1st century C.E.



Portrait of Mark in a Gospel according to the Four Evangelists, 1253 CE, Armenia; author: Isomani; © Public Domain, [wikicommons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Markus.jpg)

MARK 16 and Digital Humanities

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