

THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

A LECTURE

# Why Write a Book? From Lived Experience to the Written Word in Early Modern Europe

PAMELA H. SMITH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

THE GROLIER CLUB  
47 EAST 60TH STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10022

The Grolier Club, New York, and the Leipzig University Library have joined together to present an exhibition of the treasures from the Leipzig University Library, "In Pursuit of Knowledge: Six Hundred Years of Leipzig University, 1409 - 2009" at the Grolier Club in New York with support from the German Historical Institute Washington, DC. The exhibition will run from September 10 to November 21, 2009.

As part of the exhibition opening, Pamela H. Smith, Professor of History at Columbia University, will talk about the transition from lived experience to the written word in early modern Europe. Drawing on case studies, her lecture will consider why unlikely authors in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries began to put into writing whole areas of human experience that had not previously been written down and through this development how "science" became associated with texts rather than handwork.



## EVENING PROGRAM

6:00 PM LECTURE

7:30 PM RECEPTION

**ILLUSTRATION CREDIT:** The image above originates from a fifteenth century manuscript presumably written by a physician which depicts a child in utero. From the collection of the Leipzig University Library