

PRESENTATION

Over the last few years, studies of the history of science in parts of the world that had long been regarded as having played no significant part in the historical development of science have flourished. At the same time those who have studied the history of science “elsewhere” have engaged in historiographical reflection to an increased degree. This reflection has been nourished by research pertaining specifically to the history of science, but also by critiques of eurocentrism in the social sciences and in the humanities (post-colonial studies, global history, criticism of “orientalism”...). Based on experience of organising a number of workshops on related themes, we now propose to open a discussion on the present developing state of our field.

Each participant in the workshop will present the state of his or her own research field or some key moments of the historiography. Alternatively, he or she might discuss aspects of his or her own recent research that can help to bring out points of convergence, paths that have been opened and that can be further explored, and also obstacles that have been encountered. We hope that we can work collectively on articulating proposals that should contribute to a faster integration of our work and of our research questions into what is perceived as the “mainstream” history of science. For we are convinced that our work should contribute challenging the traditional dichotomy between “the West and the rest”—a dichotomy devoid of justification— as well as to advancing a reflection on “local and global”, which is relevant to all in our profession.

COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION

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colloque international

COMMENT PLACER LA PÉRIPHÉRIE
AU « CENTRE » : développements
récents dans l'historiographie
des sciences

HOW TO MAKE THE PERIPHERAL
“MAINSTREAM”: Recent
Developments in the
Historiography of Science

Université Paris Diderot

12-14 décembre
December 2011



organisé par / organised by

SPHERE
UMR7219

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Institut
des Humanités
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SPHERE
SCIENCES, PHILOSOPHIE, HISTOIRE
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LUNDI 12 DÉCEMBRE
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER

9H15 INTRODUCTION / OPENING

WORKING ON A GLOBAL SCALE

RONALD NUMBERS (UNIV. OF WISCONSIN, MADISON)
Science and religion around the world

10H15 – 12H30 SESSION I

LOCATING THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, TRACING ITS CIRCULATION

FABIO BEVLACQUA (UNIV. OF PAVIA)
*History and meaning of the principle of energy conservation:
going back to the Classics*

AGATHE KELLER (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS & ERC PROJECT SAW)
*Of numbers and languages: traveling histories on the origins
of the decimal place value notation (18th – 20th century)*

ANNETTE VOGT (MPIWG, BERLIN)
*Gender studies in East and West Europe -
where do we stand?*

14H00 – 17H45 SESSION 2

LOCATING SCIENCE, TRACING ITS CIRCULATION

MICHIO YANO (KYOTO SANGYO UNIV.)
The comparative study of calendar making in Asia

FRANK JAMES (THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, LONDON)
Faraday, the Royal Institution and the British Empire

ALEXEY POSTNIKOV (RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES)
*George Bogle, the first British envoy to Bhutan and Tibet (1774-
1775): the importance of his mission for his contemporaries and
subsequent participants of the Great Game in Asia*

ANA ROSA BARAHONA ETCHEVERRIA (UNAM, MEXICO CITY)
*Mendelism in the field. The case of genetics
in Mexican agriculture*

IRINA GOUZEVITCH (EHESS, CENTRE MAURICE HALBWACHS, PARIS)
*Influence versus circulation: testing an antithesis
in the history of ‘cultural transfers’ –
the case of 18th century Russia*

MARDI 13 DÉCEMBRE
TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER

9H30 – 12H30 SESSION 3

FOCUSING ON A DISCIPLINE: MATHEMATICS

HÉLÈNE GISPERT (GHDSO, UNIV. DE PARIS-SUD)
*A new agenda for the history of early 20th century (western)
mathematics: re-examining those excluded from the dominant
narrative of mathematical modernity*

KARINE CHEMLA (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS & ERC PROJECT SAW)
*The divide between proof and computation:
historiographic and historical remarks*

ANDREA BRÉARD (UNIV. OF LILLE I & IKFG, ERLANGEN)
*Can archival sources and everyday encyclopedias
complement the picture of mathematical practice in China?*

LIU DUN (IHNS, BEIJING)
*How did Archimedes become a patriotic hero
in late Qing China?*

14H30 – 17H SESSION 4

NEITHER “ORIENTAL” NOR MODERN:
NEW READINGS OF OLD MATERIALS

JOACHIM KURTZ (UNIV. OF HEIDELBERG)
Demodernizing the history of Chinese logic

CHRISTOPHER CULLEN
(NEEDHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE)
*Re-centering ancient Chinese science:
the role of recently discovered manuscript sources*

SONJA BRENTJES (UNIV. OF SEVILLE)
*Narratives of knowledge in Islamic societies: what do they
tell us about scholars and their contexts?*

MERCREDI 14 DÉCEMBRE
WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER

9H30 – 12H30 SESSION 5

“DEWESTERNISING” SCIENCE AND EMPIRES

EFTHYMIOS NICOLAIDIS
(NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION, ATHENS)
*Conspicuous by its absence: Byzantium
in the historiography of science*

CATHERINE JAMI (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS)
*“Science and empires” seen from Asia:
bringing continental empires into the narrative*

MICHAEL OSBORNE (OREGON STATE UNIV.)
*Provincial and regional contexts
of the French Empire*

GUILLAUME LACHENAL (SPHERE, UNIV. OF PARIS-DIDEROT)
The history and memory of science in Africa

14H – 16H30 SESSION 6

HOW THE “MAINSTREAM” HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED

PASCAL CROZET (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS)
On the historiography of Arabic science

FLORENCE BRETTELLE-ESTABLET (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS)
*Working on the margins: bringing out the various processes
of marginalisation of the sources of history of science*

MEHRNAZ KATOUIAN SAFADI (SPHERE, CNRS, PARIS)
*How the words and style of medieval Arabic texts have
influenced historians of science*

16H30 CONCLUSION