CALL FOR A PREDOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

IN THE FIELD OF CUNEIFORM MATHEMATICS AS RELATED TO ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXTS

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EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL PROJECT:

"Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World:

New Theoretical Approaches to the Sources and Socio-Political Issues of the Present Day"

(SAW)

led by

Karine Chemla (Principal Investigator)

Agathe Keller (co-Director)

Christine Proust (co-Director)

The ERC Project "Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World" offers a predoctoral grant in the field of ancient mathematics.

General aims of the Project. The SAW Project is devoted to mathematical sources that have come down to us from the ancient world and, more specifically, though not exclusively, to the sources produced in Mesopotamia, China, and the Indian subcontinent. The ambition of SAW is to develop new theoretical approaches in the field of the history of ancient mathematics in order to highlight a motley of practices within what at the present day are too often presented as homogeneous wholes, that is, "Mesopotamian mathematics", "Chinese mathematics", and "Indian mathematics." To this end, SAW intends to concentrate systematically on the mathematical sources produced in relation to two sectors of activity in the ancient world: the practice of the astral sciences and the state administrations in charge of financial matters.

Description of the topic attached to the present scholarship. The present call aims at granting a predoctoral scholarship to a PhD student who will do research on cuneiform sources. The successful candidate will study mathematical knowledge and practices at play in administrative activities in the early second millennium B.C.E. and their relationship to the mathematics taught in schools. He or she will examine the circulation of knowledge and individuals, on the one hand, between the different scribal schools, and, on the other hand, between schools and the local milieus active in administrations.

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Eligibility requirements: Applicants must hold an M.A. or equivalent in history, history of science, assyriology or mathematics. Relevant knowledge in mathematics and philology (Akkadian and Sumerian) would be highly appreciated. If not, the awardee should demonstrate an ability to acquire such knowledge while starting his or her PhD thesis.

Practicalities of the scholarship: The proposed research project should result in a doctoral dissertation supervised by Christine Proust, at the Paris Diderot University, France. The selected candidate will need to fulfil all necessary conditions for the doctoral promotion at the University Paris Diderot. The scholarship is granted for one year with the possibility of an extension for two additional years pending positive evaluation.

Beginning of the doctoral scholarship: The provided starting date is October 2011; postponement is negotiable.

Scientific environment: Laboratory SPHERE (CNRS & Université Paris-Diderot), Paris.

Application: Applicants should submit

- a curriculum vitae;
- a letter of motivation, in which the contribution envisaged to the research project is made clear;
- academic certificates, and
- the name of one referee who has agreed to be contacted to write a letter of recommendation if requested.

Scholars of all nationalities are welcome to apply.

Note that applicants are expected to develop a project related to the research project SAW.

For questions concerning the ERC project SAW, please contact either Karine Chemla: chemla@univ-paris-diderot.fr , Agathe Keller: kellera@univ-paris-diderot.fr or Christine Proust: christine.proust@univ-paris-diderot.fr.

Applications should be sent **only by e-mail** to Karine Chemla: chemla@univ-paris-diderot.fr. It is advised to request an e-mail attesting to the actual reception of the application.

Application deadline: At the applicant's earliest convenience and in any event before **September 1, 2011.**

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