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### Special panel organised by the SAW Project

#### *Meanings and uses of measuring units in pre-modern China*

Chaired by **Karine Chemla** (SPHERE UMR 7219, CNRS & U. Paris Diderot, ERC Advanced Research Grant SAW) & **Zhu Yiwen** (PhD Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS, China & Post-doc, ERC Advanced Research grant SAW, SPHERE UMR 7219)

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#### *Different mathematical cultures in Tang time period as revealed by the treatment of measured quantities*

**Abstract** - The Tang scholar Li Chunfeng 李淳風 ( 602 – 670 ) supervised a commentary composed on *Ten classical mathematical books* 算經十書 and some of their earlier commentaries. That newly composed commentary was presented to the throne in 656. Before that time, Li Chunfeng had also authored three monographs for inclusion in the *History of the Jin dynasty* Jin Shu 晉書 and the *History of the Sui dynasty* Sui Shu 隋書, which contained a historical treatment of measuring units. On the other hand, the Tang scholar Jia Gongyan 賈公彥 ( 7century ) wrote commentaries on *Rituals of the Zhou dynasty* (Zhou Li 周禮) and *Etiquettes and Rites* (Yi Li 儀禮.) In these two commentaries on Confucian classical books, Jia Gongyan also developed mathematical computations on quantities expressed with respect to measuring units.

The talk aims to bring to light that these sources bear witness to different ways of putting measuring units and quantities expressed with respect to them into play. I shall examine the role played by measuring units in these different kinds of texts, the goal being to put forward the hypothesis that there existed different cultures of computation in Tang China.