

Seminar SAW

Exploring 19th and 20th centuries historiographies of mathematics in the ancient world, 2015-2016

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Historical approaches to ancient mathematics and astral sciences in the early modern period

David Rabouin (SPHERE, Université Paris Diderot, France)

Wallis as an historian of Algebra

Abstract – In this talk, I will present Wallis's views on the history of Algebra, as they appear in his treatises of 1657: *Mathesis universalis*, and of 1685: *A Treatise of algebra, both historical and practical*. The original mixture of history and conceptual presentation given by Wallis will be analyzed and I will detail the original conception of Algebra, which arise from this approach. I will also emphasize the contextual elements leading to the project of an "English" Algebra at the end of the XVIIth century.