

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

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**History of mathematics and the astral sciences in the ancient world in a  
context of professionalization. The case of Mesopotamia**

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*Abraham Sachs and the History of Babylonian science*

**Abstract** – The meeting between Abraham Sachs and Otto Neugebauer which led to Sachs taking up a position at Brown first as Neugebauer's assistant and then as a fellow professor in the Department for the History of Mathematics marks a crucial turning point in the study of the Babylonian exact sciences. Although Sachs's contributions to the field have often been hidden to outsiders by the shadow of Neugebauer, Sachs made significant contributions to the study of Babylonian mathematics and astronomy in his own right. This paper will explore those contributions and compare the work and approach of the philologist-who-learned-science Sachs with those of the mathematician-who-learned-philology Neugebauer.