

**Seminar SAW History of Science, History of Text, 2011-2016**  
**SAW Three-day Meeting**

**How do writings in the astral sciences**  
**document mathematical practices and the practitioners?**

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*Procedural table as a tool: The calculations in Chinese calendric astronomy*

**Abstract** - This presentation will discuss a kind of unique table used in pre-modern China. Several samples will be introduced to show how it arranges the calendric calculations and lists each step of them in order to normalize the calculations. The users can pick up data from the appropriate numerical tables and fill them in this kind of procedural table to make the calculations mechanized. This method becomes a useful tool in Chinese calendric astronomy which makes the calculation and the using of numerical tables more normalized and also reduces the chance of errors.