

SAW Conference on Writing histories of ancient mathematics – Reflecting on past practices and opening the future, 18th-21st centuries

24-28 Octobre, 2016

organized by Karine Chemla, Agathe Keller, Christine Proust and the SAW group
Université Paris Diderot, Condorcet Building room 366A Klimt- 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

Making sense of the diversity of mathematics

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Tian Miao (IHNS, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China)

Historical study and the Practices of mathematics in 18th and 19th century China

Abstract – In the context of the research of intellectual history in the 17th century, and with the process of the rediscovery and revival of ancient mathematical texts, historical study of mathematics in China became a fruitful field in 19th century China. In this paper, through a detailed study of works by Li Rui and Jiao Xun, two leading Chinese mathematicians in that period of time, I will focus on the following aspects:

- 1) The purpose of their study of history of mathematics;
- 2) The method they used in their work;
- 3) The relationship between their historical research and mathematical research.

I will also provide an introduction about historical and cultural context of the history of mathematics in the 19th century, and analyze how political and cultural factors played a role in the shaping of historiography of mathematics in 19th century.