

## **Saw Seminar History of Science, History of Text**

### **Abstract**

**December 13, 2012**

**Florence Bretelle Establet**

#### ***Uses and Functions of Quotations in Chinese Medical Texts***

Florence Bretelle-Establet's talk deals with the question of uses and functions of citation in Chinese medical texts. The target of her research is twofold and can be summarized as follows : What do citations tell us on the medical culture of the citers; and what do medical texts tell us on the practice of citation. After a first overview of the practice of citing in a corpus of a twenty of medical texts written in the Far South of China in 18th and 19th centuries, where she first analyses the network of the cited texts and authors in each of these texts, she analyses her corpus of texts with a series of questions in mind: How do writers cite or quote? Do they cite sayings, ideas, formulas, clinical cases? Can we find different ways of citing in these texts? Could these different ways of citing help us to better understand the functions of citation and characterize different genres of texts? And, in return, are there some constraints that a text should respect in order to be considered as belonging to a certain genre of texts?