

Joint CSMC & SAW Workshop

**“What Can the History of Science Contribute to Manuscript Studies
or
What Can Manuscript Studies Contribute to the History of Science?”**

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Abstract

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Sanskrit mathematical texts and practices from the point of view of manuscripts: diagrams, numerical tables and the organization of mathematical chapters in early medieval commentaries.

Mathematical practice involves dealing with non-discursive objects, whether it is geometrical figures or noted numbers, amongst others. If Sanskrit treatises (śāstra) only deal with words, commentaries figure working surfaces in which such objects were to be laid out and manipulated. In this presentation, the manuscript practices of diagrams in Bhāskara's 629 commentary on the *Āryabhaṭīya* (499) and the use of place value in multiplications in Pṛthūdaka's commentary on the *Brahmasphuṭasiddhānta* will be an opportunity to reflect both on what these practices reveal for the history of mathematics and a reflection on the epigraphy of such objects in manuscripts. Questions related also to the inner subdivisions of mathematical commentaries and the organisation of mathematical chapters will be raised.