

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
announces a Lecture

by

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(CNRS, SPHere & SAW ERC project)

## **Math Lessons: Towards an Interdisciplinary Approach to an Early Chinese Manuscript Culture**

Discovered in 1983 in Zhangjiashan tomb 247 (sealed ca. 186 BC), the *Math book* (*Suan shu shu*) was until 2007 the earliest book of mathematics extant from China. In this talk, we will discuss what lessons may be learned about early book culture and mathematics through careful analysis of this particular source as manuscript. The manuscript is a “bookmat” of bamboo slips bound by silk and is comprised of 69 titled sections containing procedures, problems, and tables for dealing with matters of county-level economic administration. Unlike the books of today, we understand the texts of this period to have frequently been modular, composed of small independently circulating textual units. We would like to break the idea of a “book” down further, by exploring textual layering and dialogue between participants in the text. It is our hope that future work of type will help bridge the gap that exists between cultural historians and historians of science in producing an integrative vision of ancient Chinese book culture.

**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6 pm**

Room 0001

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