

SAW Seminar: History of Science, History of Text

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Orality and writing in Emile Borel's notebook

Abstract: The article by M. C. Bustamante concerns the notes the mathematician Emile Borel took during the course on radiation theory, given by Paul Langevin at the College de France in 1912-1913. It examines the scientific content of the notes and their physical form. It shows on the one hand, how the notes refer to the collective dimension of the course, and , on the other hand, the particularities that can only be explained by the characteristics of the oral expression of Langevin . To expand her point, while showing the specificity of notes taken by the mathematician, she examines notebooks on other courses given by Langevin. They are the only record we have of the courses to which they relate. Langevin did not publish his lectures. This might suggest that he was convinced of the impact of oral presentation in the transmission of scientific knowledge.