

SAW Seminar: History of Science, History of Text

May 22, 2014

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Commentaries on mathematical texts. Results and new questions

Abstract: The presentation offers an overview of the issues that appeared to me relevant to address in the research I have so far devoted to mathematical commentaries, based on the study of Liu Hui's and Li Chunfeng's commentaries on *The Nine Chapters*. In particular, I shall summarize how reading commentaries as commentaries and observing commentators as readers of canons have offered perspectives in my view essential to interpret these ancient writings. At the moment when I plan to turn to a new set of mathematical commentaries, of a completely different nature, I shall sketch some of the new issues that appear promising for future research. The focus will be placed on how research on mathematical commentaries can help us think about diversity in mathematical practice in ancient China.