

Seminar SAW
**Exploring 19th and 20th centuries historiographies of mathematics in
the ancient world, 2015-2016**

November 13th, 2015

**Historical approaches to ancient mathematics and astral sciences in the early
modern period**

Florence HSIA (University of Wisconsin, USA)

Reconstructing science in sinographic archives

Abstract – This seminar addresses some critical methodological issues in addressing European approaches to Chinese scientific traditions prior to the nineteenth-century institutional emergence of sinology as an academic discipline. A series of early modern case studies focusing on mathematical sciences illustrates how the production of such expert knowledge in this period can be usefully analyzed by reconstructing historically contingent processes of constituting and structuring sinographic (textual, visual, and material) corpora.