

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

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**History of mathematics and the astral sciences in the ancient world in a
context of professionalization. The case of Mesopotamia**

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*"Greek" science, "Babylonian" science? A vexata quaestio in the historiography of
science*

Abstract - My talk will focus on three instances of the reception of cuneiform texts on Mesopotamian science by scholars of ancient Greece. I will begin with Franz Boll's collaboration (ca. 1900-1922) with assyriologist Carl Bezold on Greek and Mesopotamian astral sciences. I will continue with J.K. Fotheringham's assessment of « The Indebtedness of Greek to Chaldaean Astronomy » (1928). Finally, this will lead me to the exceptional group of scholars which formed around the journal *Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Mathematik, Astronomie und Physik* (1929-1938), including students of ancient Greek science and philosophy such as Fotheringham, O. Neugebauer, J. Stenzel, O. Toeplitz and O. Becker.