

Transmission of astronomical diagrams and astral iconography in Persian, Arabic and Ottoman texts (6th-17th centuries)



24-25 June 2024

**Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA)
Istanbul, Türkiye**

As a follow-up to the symposium on the transmission of astronomical knowledges, techniques and know-how organised in collaboration with Istanbul University in November 2023 (<https://ottomanastronomy.org/>), we hope to bring together French, Turkish and Iranian researchers at the IFEA to discuss the transmission of astronomical diagrams and astral iconography in Persian, Arabic and Ottoman texts.

Astronomical diagrams and iconography constitute a unique visual testimony in the history of astral sciences. Diagrams enable us to visualise, in a single form, the results of observation, their interpretation using mathematical models, the organisation of technical knowledge and its use to deduce models and their practical application.

Current astronomical observation is based on models derived from physical hypotheses, the use of electromagnetic waves and the analysis of cosmic rays, which can provide information about galaxies beyond the solar system. Between the 6th and 17th centuries AD, the only instruments available to astral scientists were those that could gather information about our solar system within the limits of the visible planets.

By comparing the differences between representations, at a given period, from Anatolia to India or China, astronomical iconography makes it possible to carry out a study that is both synchronic and diachronic. Analysing the iconography from a particular area and its variations over time will help us to understand the assimilation of external cultural traditions and their reappropriation.

The iconography of the planets found in some Persian and Arabic texts and in the Ottoman spelling of calendars is a case point. While the main iconography in the Arab-Muslim world is based on an anthropomorphic vision of the planets, in the texts originating in Central Asia, the iconography develops particularly on a Hindu or Buddhist model.

The aim of these workshop days will be to put in place a working structure to analyse the various transmission and dissemination of astral diagrams or astral iconography. We seek to build a cross-referenced database to be enriched by future transcultural studies.

➤ The first day will be devoted to presenting the guests' research programmes and putting their results progress into perspective.

A discussion with the other participants and the public will provide an opportunity for further reflection.

➤ The second day will be devoted to presenting existing programmes (European, French, Turkish) with a view to setting up collaboration and facilitating exchanges and travel between the various institutions and, in the longer term, financing a joint project.

At the end of the second day, a round table will be organised to propose a timetable to go further on this collaboration.

Each presentation will last 20 minutes, followed by an initial 10-minute interaction with the participants and the audience.

These workshop days are open to the public interested in these issues.

⚠ Please send us a short summary of your intervention before April 20.

Participants:

- Florence Somer, IFEA/ CeRMI, Galatasaray University
- Gaye Danişan, Department of the History of Science, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University
- Amir Gamini, Institute for the History of Sciences, Tehran University
- Mustafa Yavari, Institute for the History of Sciences, Tehran University
- 3 doctorate researchers, Tehran / Tabriz University
- Hadi Tabatabai, Institute for the History of Sciences, Tehran University
- Matthieu Husson, SYRTE, EIDA, Observatoire de Paris
- Divna Manolova, SYRTE, EIDA, Observatoire de Paris
- Chen Ji, SYRTE, EIDA, Observatoire de Paris
- Scott Trigg, SYRTE, EIDA, Observatoire de Paris