

How much?

Global histories and material cultures of accountancy and metrology

Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 July 2026
Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 2.55

The programme is subject to change. All times are British Summer Time (BST).

TUESDAY 7 JULY	
09.00-09.25	Registration and refreshments
09.25-09.30	Welcome and housekeeping
09.30-10.00	Opening Remarks
10.00-11.00	Eleonora Sammarchi , <i>University of Bern</i> When Mathematics Meets Money: Computing Monetary Quantities in the Islamicate World Commentator: Carlos Gonçalves, University of Sao Paulo
11.00-11.30	Refreshments
11.30-12.15	Daniel Margócsy , <i>University of Cambridge</i> The Price of Cloves: Colonial Encounters in Seventeenth-Century Maluku
12.15-13.15	Laura Leon Llerena , <i>Durham University</i> Numeracy, Accountancy and the Negotiation of Colonisation in Early Modern Peru Commentator: James Fox, University of Glasgow
13.15-14.45	Lunch
14.45-15.45	Haolin Wang , <i>Université Paris Cité</i> How to Understand the Līlāvati's Metrology and Apply It? Commentator: Agathe Keller, CNRS
15.45-16.15	Refreshments
16.15-17.00	Richard Oosterhoff , <i>University of Edinburgh</i> Calculating Justice: Measurement in Early Modern Moral Philosophy
17.00-18.00	Welcome reception

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY	
9.30-10.30	Carlos Gonçalves , <i>University of Sao Paulo</i> Amounts, Interest, and Conditions in Loan Contracts from the Old Babylonian Diyala: the Archive of Ilšu-Nāšir from Nērebtum Commentator: Jens Høyrup, Roskilde University
10.30-11.00	Refreshments
11.00-12.00	Clelia Cialesi , <i>SPHERE Laboratory, Université Paris Cité</i> Something That Can Stand for Anything: The Unknown Against the Backdrop of 14th-Century Accounts of Quantity Commentator: Nicolas Grégoire-Véryrié, University of Bern
12.00-13.00	Célestin Xiaohan Zhou , <i>The Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences and University of Edinburgh</i> Accountancy in Fifteenth-Century Chinese Mathematical Texts: Its Sources and Applications Commentator: Maedeh Hosseinzadeh, University of Bern
13.00-14.30	Lunch

14.30-15.30	Taro Tokutake , <i>SPHERE Laboratory, Université Paris Cité</i> Numerical Configurations of “Conversion of Several Bonds into One” (ekapattrīkaraṇa) in Manuscripts of Śrīdhara’s Three Hundred [Verses] (Trīṣaṭī) Commentator: Zehra Bilgin, University of Edinburgh and Istanbul Medeniyet University
15.30-16.00	Refreshments
16.00-17.00	Raffaele Danna and Jip Van Besouw , <i>both Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies</i> Money problems: Struggling with value, coins, and precision in late medieval and early modern Europe Commentator: Veronica Gavagna, University of Florence

THURSDAY 9 JULY

09.30-10.30	Christopher Hollings , <i>University of Oxford</i> Modern Understandings of Ancient Egyptian Metrology Commentator: Karine Chemla, University of Edinburgh
10.30-11.00	Refreshments
11.00-12.00	Jane Wess , <i>independent scholar</i> Social Considerations in the Use of Instruments: The Hypsometer Commentator: Deborah Kent, University of St. Andrews
12.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Visit to National Museums Scotland’s Collection Store 242 West Granton Road, Edinburgh EH5 1JA with National Museum of Scotland staff Rebekah Higgitt , Principal Curator of Science, Tacye Phillipson , Senior Curator of Science and Margaret Maitland , Principal Curator, Ancient Mediterranean.

FRIDAY 10 JULY

09.30-10.30	Robert Middeke-Conlin , <i>Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology</i> Culture and Environment: The Cognitive Factors of Mesopotamian Value Conception Commentator: Thomás-Haddad, University of Sao Paulo
10.30-11.00	Refreshments
11.00-12.00	Laurent Mazliak , <i>Sorbonne Université</i> Émile Borel and Probability as a Scientific Tool for the Citizen Commentator: Caroline Ehrhardt, Université Paris 8
12.00-12.45	Sonja Brentjes , <i>University Wuppertal</i> Numbers and Their Forms and Usage in Two Books of the Mathematical Sciences: ‘ <i>Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi’s Kitab suwar al-kawakib al-thabita</i> ’ and ‘ <i>Abd al-Rahman al-Khazini’s Kitab mizan al-hikma</i> ’
12.45-14.15	Lunch
14.15-15.15	Michael Barany , <i>University of Edinburgh</i> Accounting Ideals in Modern Mathematics Discussion with J.P. Archer, J. Vrhovski, B. van Broekhoven, and P. Rogers
15.15-15.45	Refreshments
15.45-17.00	Roundtable and concluding remarks