Anachronism is often declared the greatest failure, almost a moral sin, a historian can commit. Yet, some have spoken in favor of anachronism, considering it either as an inevitable, or even as a desirable feature of an historical work. The purpose of this two-day international conference is to reflect on the uses and abuses of anachronism in the historical study of the mathematical sciences.

FEATURED SPEAKER
Niccolò Guicciardini
Recipient of the Francis Bacon Award in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology
Professor of History of Science and Mathematics, University of Bergamo
“Un Altro Presente: on the Historical Interpretation of Mathematical Texts”

Friday April 13, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
Reception to follow.
SPALDING LABORATORY AUDITORIUM
(Building 41, Room 106)

OTHER SPEAKERS
Karine Chemla
Senior Researcher, CNRS University Paris Diderot, University Paris Panthéon Sorbonne
“Reading Problems as Problems, Books as Books, and the Like: Discussing a Widespread and yet Little-discussed Form of Anachronism in the History of Mathematics and Beyond”

Karine Chemla
Senior Researcher, CNRS University Paris Diderot, University Paris Panthéon Sorbonne
“Reading Problems as Problems, Books as Books, and the Like: Discussing a Widespread and yet Little-discussed Form of Anachronism in the History of Mathematics and Beyond”

Joseph W. Dauben
Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, Lehman College, City University of New York
“Anachronism and Incommensurability: Words, Concepts, Contexts, and Intentions”

Jacqueline Feke
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan
“Re-examining the Distinction between Philosophy and the Mathematical Sciences in Greek Antiquity”

Craig Fraser
Professor of History of Mathematics, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto
“Historiographical Issues in the Interpretation of Euler’s Work on Divergent Series”

Jeremy Gray
Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus, The Open University
“Anachronism: The Case of Non-Euclidean Geometry”

Jemma Lorenat
Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Pitzer College

Kim Plofker
Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Union College
“Anachronism/Anachorism in the Study of Infinitesimal Mathematics in India”

Martina Schneider
Lecturer in the History of Mathematics and Science, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
“On Mathematical Reconstruction as a Historiographical Method”

George E. Smith
Professor of Philosophy, Tufts University
“Reading the Principal Anachronistic Renderings of Newton’s Mathematics”

If you plan to attend, contact Ms. Sini Elvington, Secretary to the Bacon Committee: elvington@caltech.edu or click here:

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND FREE