

Tales from early modern Indian astronomy: Islamicate ideas in Sanskrit idioms

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In its reception of ideas from the Marāgha and Samarqand schools, Sanskrit astronomy of early modern Mughal India adapted Islamicate (Arabic and Persian) concepts to suit the linguistic and logical requirements of its own changing episteme. The practical, physical, and philosophical forces that influenced this change are being investigated by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung-funded project Changing Episteme in Early Modern Sanskrit Astronomy (CEEMSA, 2022-23, Grant Agreement № AZ 21/F/21). In this talk, the project PI Anuj Misra and project postdoc Jean Arzoumanov will jointly present some of the latest developments of the project; in particular, those that have emerged in comparing the canons from two 17th century astronomical table-texts composed near-contemporaneously: the Persian Zij-i Shāh Jahānī of Mullā Farīd and its Sanskrit translation, the Siddhāntasindhu of Nityānanda.

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