

Rethinking the Historiography of Ottoman Astronomy: Circumstantial versus Direct Connections

An increasing interest in adopting a multi-perspective methodology in the historiography of science, which involves considering circumstantial connections alongside direct ones, enables a more comprehensive exploration of various facets of knowledge flows within a historical context and opens up new avenues for research. This trend empowers us to pose new and thought-provoking questions that have the potential to reshape our understanding of the historiography of Ottoman astronomy. From this motivation, the paper seeks to elucidate the significance of circumstantial connections within the Ottoman context, particularly emphasising nautical astronomy, calendars, astronomical instruments, and volvelles. Its ultimate goal is to offer a more comprehensive understanding of how knowledge in these areas was circulated and adapted over time within Ottoman society. Focusing on circumstantial connections and employing a comparative case study approach, this research aims to shed light on the intricate dynamics of astronomical knowledge dissemination and assimilation in the Ottoman World during the 16th to 18th centuries.

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