

The circulation of mathematical knowledge within the Mediterranean world: algebraic expressions as an example of multilinearity

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Within the study of the circulation of scientific knowledge, global histories have shown the importance of shifting from the idea of transmission to the one of multilinearity.

In this talk, I will analyze multilinearity by taking into account how algebraic expressions are denominated, and what kind of mathematical objects they represent in some medieval and early modern algebraic texts. I will focus on the Mediterranean area, and I will identify the continuities, as well as the discontinuities, that characterize arithmetic and algebra in different parts of this area.