MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

ASTRA
ASTRAL SCIENCES IN
TRANS-REGIONAL ASIA

Call for Chapter Proposals

Euclid Beyond the Mediterranean

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Overview

Euclid's *Elements* stands among the most influential works in the history of global knowledge. However, historiographical attention has predominantly focussed on its transmission, commentary traditions, and modern developments within Mediterranean, Western European, and Near Eastern contexts.

The book project *Euclid Beyond the Mediterranean* aims to expand this perspective by examining the multifaceted reception and translation of Euclidean geometry across Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. Building on the momentum of foundational initiatives such as the EUCLIDES project ('Euclid in the Modern Age: A History of Cross-Cultural Transmissions, Translations and Transformations of the Elements, led by Vincenzo De Risi and Angela Axworthy), this edited collection—anchored in the MPIWG working group of the same name—seeks to extend these inquiries to encompass regional classical and vernacular cultures beyond the Mediterranean basin that actively engaged with Euclidean ideas.

We seek original contributions that explore how Euclidean concepts, as well as the text of the *Elements* itself, were translated, adapted, transformed, contested, or integrated into local intellectual, practical, and philosophical frameworks.

Themes & Scope

We welcome proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following themes in non-Mediterranean geographies across all chronological periods:

- **Translation & Vernacularisation:** The translation of the *Elements* into regional classical (e.g., Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, Persian) and vernacular languages, focussing on terminological innovation, linguistic adaptations, manuscript traditions, and lost or fragmentary translations.
- **Transmissions & Textual Trajectories:** Circulation networks, scribal practices, and the material history of Euclidean texts moving across regional boundaries.

- **Philosophical & Epistemological Encounters:** How Euclidean axioms, definitions, and modes of proof interacted with local cosmological, logical, or mathematical traditions.
- **Technical & Material Culture:** Practical applications of Euclidean geometry in architecture, surveying, cartography, navigation, astronomy, and visual arts.
- **Sociohistorical & Political Contexts:** Institutional adoption, patronage, educational reform, colonial encounters, and post-colonial re-evaluations of Euclidean knowledge.
- **Historiographies & Modern Appropriations:** How regional translations and interpretations of Euclid shaped local histories of science and mathematics.

To foster diverse perspectives and support the next generation of scholarship, early-career researchers and doctoral candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Workshop & Publication Plan

Contributors whose proposals are accepted will be invited to participate in a collective working group workshop in late 2027 at the MPIWG in Berlin to share feedback internally prior to publication. The finalised volume is scheduled for publication in the forthcoming Brill book series *Astral Sciences in Trans-Regional Asia* (launching in 2026).

Submission Guidelines

To apply, kindly send a tentative title and a 150–200 word abstract outlining the topic, methodology, sources, and central argument, along with your name and contact details to:

- Anuj Misra: amisra@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de
- Toke Knudsen: toke.knudsen@oneonta.edu

Subject line: 'Chapter Proposal: Euclid Beyond the Mediterranean'

Key Dates & Timeline

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 30 November 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 15 January 2027

- **Full Chapter Submission (approx. 7,000–9,000 words):** 15 September 2027
- **Working Group Workshop (Berlin):** Late 2027
- **Target Publication:** Spring 2028