

PAL & ALFA Workshop

Pre-modern Astronomical and Astrological Data in Tabular Form:

Storage, Edition and Mathematical Analysis

Practical sessions for students and researchers

Munich, 19–21 November 2018

In the context of the workshop “Pre-Modern Astronomical and Astrological Data in Tabular Form: Storage, Edition and Mathematical Analysis”, organised by the projects ALFA (Paris) and PAL at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Munich on 19–21 November 2019, two specific practical sessions will be dedicated to an initial exploration of, and practical exercises with, the main mathematical and digital tools today available for the study of numerical tables from the astral sciences. These sessions will complement the more theoretical approaches to the topic addressed in the first three sessions of the workshop.

Special attention will be paid to the newly developed “Digital Information system for the History of the Astral Sciences” (DISHAS, cooperative undertaking of the projects TAMAS, DATA, ALFA, HAMSI and PAL), whose first part under implementation is a database of tables, the parameters on which they are based, and the sources in which they occur. Complementary and more advanced analysis tools not yet available in DISHAS will also be addressed. The participants will thus be introduced to the study and analysis of tables in a pragmatic way. Some introductory source materials will be provided to the participants, but most importantly each participant is welcome to bring her/his own original sources in order to experiment directly with them. The feedback gained from these sessions will be especially important for shaping the future development of DISHAS.

The practical sessions are open to all interested researchers but will be designed especially for students who are looking for an introduction to the study of tables in the astral sciences and the DISHAS database. All participants are asked to prepare a 10-minute presentation of their sources and their interest in the edition and analysis of astronomical and astrological tables. Participants are expected to bring their own notebooks; wireless internet at the Academy is available through eduroam.

In order to apply for participation in the workshop, please send the following materials to Matthieu Husson (matthieu.husson@obspm.fr) and Benno van Dalen (bvdalen@ptolemaeus.badw.de) before 30 September 2018: a short CV (at most 2 pages), a title and 100-word abstract of your short presentation, an additional 200-word motivation for your participation in the workshop, and a brief technical description of the tables you like to experiment with (all together one page at most).

The projects PAL and ALFA provide grants to cover the travel expenses and/or accommodation in Munich for at least four students or young scholars who like to participate in the workshop and the practical sessions. Please indicate with your application whether you like to apply for these grants as well. In that case, please give an estimate of the expenses for which you seek the grant. The selected candidates will be informed by October 7, 2018.

Matthieu Husson (ALFA) and Benno van Dalen (PAL)