Professor Dwivedi Memorial Lecture

"Sticks and Shadows: The Ingenious Mathematics of Medieval Indian Timekeeping"

A talk by

Dr. Kim Plofker
Department of Mathematics
Union College, N.Y., U.S.A.

Date: **Friday, September 22, 2017**

Time: **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Location: **1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal**
J.W. McConnell Building/Library Bldg
Room S-LB 646

The talk will be followed by a small reception in room S-LB 921.04

Please RSVP to g.ford@concordia.ca

Kim Plofker is Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Union College in New York. She is the author of *Mathematics in India* (Princeton 2009) and many articles on the history of the exact sciences in India, Islam, and early modern Europe. Her newest project in progress is a co-authored volume on medieval mathematics in Bloomsbury's forthcoming Cultural History of Mathematics series.

Abstract: One of the most remarkable achievements of classical Indian mathematics was its construction of versatile and powerful models for measuring time from astronomical observations. In addition to a great variety of trigonometrically exact solutions to various timekeeping problems, Indian mathematicians also devised numerous innovative algebraic and hybrid versions to make computations more efficient. This talk will explore the development of these ideas from very ancient Sanskrit texts through classic works of Indian astronomy, culminating in the treatises of the renowned Bhaskaracarya in the twelfth century.

mathstat.concordia.ca