

The grant awarded to me by the International Commission on the History of Mathematics was for my participation as a speaker at the annual Research in Progress meeting of the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM), held in Oxford on March 2nd, 2024. This meeting provides early-career scholars with an opportunity to communicate on their current research to a benevolent audience. The grant allowed me to attend the meeting by covering my travel from Paris to Oxford, as well as accommodation expenses for the stay.

The communication I gave, “Across disciplinary boundaries and state borders,” was on a chapter of my Ph.D. dissertation on the circulation of some mathematical results elaborated in the United States to the Soviet Union during the 1950s, in spite of restrictions of distribution. It touched upon a set of issues for the history of mathematics, such as secrecy practices in Cold War science, transformations of mathematical knowledge carried out by actors when circulating it, and the importance of transnational approaches to the history of mathematics. The ensuing questions from the audience and informal exchanges during breaks provided me with welcomed and enlightening discussions on my work, that I hope may develop in sustained scientific conversations. The BSHM also sets up a mentorship scheme, to get feedbacks from a senior researcher. I look forward to receiving these, as I believe it will help me with forthcoming communications.

Aside from sharing my research, the meeting was an occasion for me to meet other early-career scholars and get to know their works. I liked the variety of historical material discussed, which ranged from Ancient China to pre-modern and modern mathematics. I also loved that there was such a diversity of historiographical approaches represented in the meeting – social and political history of mathematics, integrated history and philosophy of mathematics, focuses on mathematical aspects, or history of mathematical instruments, for instance. I was also pleased with the fact that the audience included some people with an interest for the history of mathematics, without necessarily being historians of mathematics themselves. Overall, I am glad I could participate in the 2024 Research in Progress meeting, and look forward to attending again!