Mathematics, Philosophy, and Literature

A two-day workshop hosted by the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard
Thursday, April 11 to Friday, April 12, 2013

Thursday, April 11, 4 pm: Sever Hall 202, 25 Harvard Yard
Friday, April 12, 9 am: Plimpton Seminar Room, Barker Center 133, 12 Quincy Street

Seating is limited. Please RSVP Julia Ng (juliang@fas.harvard.edu).

Made possible by the generous support of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard, the Department of Comparative Literature, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Seminar on France and the World, the Department of the History of Science, and the Department of Philosophy. Co-sponsored with the Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual History and the Philosophy, Poetry and Religion Seminar.

PROGRAM
Thursday, April 11: Sever Hall 202
4:00 Opening Remarks: Julia Ng (Harvard University)

Session One
Moderator: Julia Ng (Harvard University)
4:15 Stephanie Dick (Harvard University): Proof by Algorithm: Translating Mathematics into the Digital
5:00 Interlude
6:00 Peter Galison (Harvard University): Structure of Crystal, Bucket of Dust

Friday, April 12: Barker 133
9:00 Breakfast reception

Session Two
Moderator: Daniel Loick (Universität Frankfurt am Main / Harvard University)
9:30 John Hamilton (Harvard University): Arithmetica and Logistica
10:15 Peter Fenves (Northwestern University): The Historical versus Physical Process: Benjamin, Scholem, and the Literature of Time

11:00 Coffee break

Session Three
Moderator: Robert Lehman (Boston College)
11:30 Greg Moynahan (Bard College): Irony, Comedy, Infinity: Hermann Cohen on Science and Narrative Form
12:15 Julia Ng (Harvard University): Picturing Pure Power (with Benjamin)

1:00 Lunch break

Session Four
Moderator: Audrey Wasser (University of Chicago)
2:15 Markus Hardtmann (University of Chicago): At the Edge: Badiou, Hölderlin, Empedocles
3:00 Arkady Plotnitsky (Purdue University): Mallarmé, Mathematics, and Modernism