

Mathematics Research and Teaching: A Transcultural History of the Circulation of Mathematical Ideas between India and Europe

Dhruv Raina

Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

d_raina@yahoo.com

The relation between the history of scientific ideas and practices on the one hand and science education has been raised by science educators within the sphere of the pedagogy of science. The literature on the salience of history and philosophy of science to the pedagogy of science is voluminous. In the recent past, an additional aspect that has touched the interests of researchers and this has to do with what one might refer to as 'problems in science teaching leading to research'. The claim is not that this is a new development for across the sciences and social sciences researchers have acknowledged their importance – from high school to post-graduate teaching. In this lecture I turn back, not so much to the history of sciences, but the history of mathematics to discuss a transcultural exchange between Indologists, practicing mathematicians and mathematics teachers from the first half of the nineteenth century. In other words, it explores the relationship between the world of research, the history of disciplines and teaching.