The Department of Mathematics, Stanford University presents

THE
KAREL DELEEUW MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speaker:

Reviel Netz

Professor of Classics
and, by courtesy,
Professor of Philosophy
Stanford University

"Archimedes' Hydrostatics and the Birth of Mathematical Physics"

Wednesday, June 6

4:15pm

Building 380 Room 380-C

A philosophical question: how come mathematics applies to the physical world? A historical question: why was mathematics applied to the physical world? To approach both questions, we consider the first text clearly dedicated to mathematical physics, Archimedes' "Floating Bodies". Archimedes derives the principle of bouyancy and uses it to determine the conditions of stability of various solids. In the talk, we will collect hints to Archimedes' underlying thought processes. Briefly: mathematical physics was born as a kind of "mathematics".
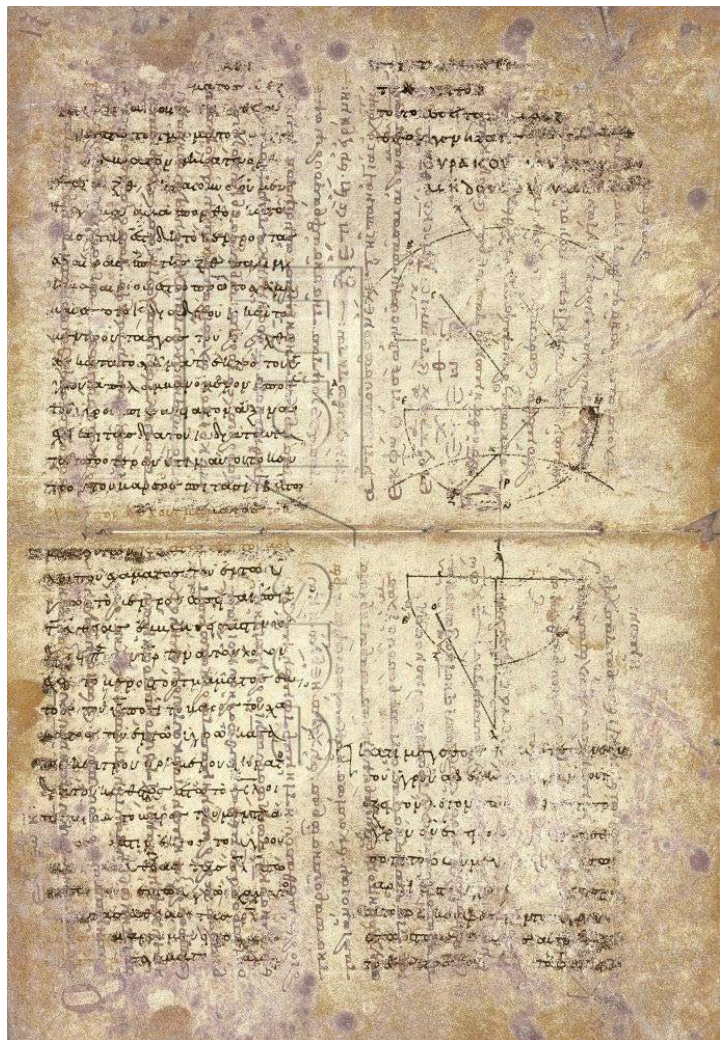
(reception at 3:15pm in the Math Courtyard)

The deLeeuw lecture series was initiated in 1978 to honor the memory of Karel deLeeuw, a member of the Stanford Department of Mathematics from 1957–1978. The series consists of lectures aimed at a general, scientifically literate audience.