



EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

Alma Steingart
(Cambridge/USA)

The Axiom of High Modernism: Mathematical Thought in Cold War America

During the 20th mathematization has become increasingly prevalent not only in the physical sciences, but in the social sciences and biological sciences as well. Economics is perhaps the best example, but sociologists, psychologists and even anthropologists began incorporated mathematical ideas into their work in the second half of the twentieth century. Following the work of Ted Porter, scholars tend to equate mathematics with quantification and hence with objectivity. However, I argue that it was not *quantification* that defined the postwar period, but rather *axiomatization*. As I show, in the process mathematics transformed from a tool associated most closely with measurement and calculation, into an instrument for theory construction.

Alma Steingart is a lecturer in the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University. Her research focuses on twentieth-century mathematical thought. Steingart is currently completing her first manuscript, *Pure Abstraction: Mathematical Thought and High Modernism*, which tracks the proliferation of midcentury mathematical thought dedicated to abstract and axiomatic ways of reasoning. She earned her PhD from MIT in the Program in History | Anthropology | Science, Technology (HASTS), and served as a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows.

Mittwoch, 15.05.2019
18 Uhr c.t.
Raum N.10.20

Kontakt: iz1@uni-wuppertal.de,
www.izwt.uni-wuppertal.de

