

## The History of Science Society Presents the Pfizer Prize for Best Scholarly Book to Eleanor Robson

### For Immediate Release:

Cleveland, OH—November 4, 2011—[The History of Science Society](#) (HSS) has awarded the Pfizer Prize for Best Scholarly Book to [Eleanor Robson](#) for [\*Mathematics in Ancient Iraq: A Social History\*](#), published in 2008 by Princeton University Press. The Pfizer Prize recognizes an outstanding book in the history of science and is the highest honor awarded by the HSS for a single work of scholarship.

Covering over three millennia of cuneiform texts, some of which have become available through Dr. Robson's own efforts, *Mathematics in Ancient Iraq* displays a mastery of difficult technical arts, including the interpretation of archaeological and artifactual evidence, the decipherment of often fragmentary texts, and the analysis of scribal mathematical procedures.

Pfizer Prize Committee Chair, John Servos, praises Robson's research, saying "*Mathematics in Ancient Iraq* is one of those uncommon gems that advance and enliven a specialty while providing outsiders clear understanding of its contours and importance."

Eleanor Robson is a Reader in History and Philosophy of Science at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, Vice-Chair of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq and a Fellow of Darwin College.

The History of Science Society is the world's largest society dedicated to understanding science, technology, medicine, and their interactions with society in historical context. Over 3,000 individual and institutional members across the world support the Society's mission to foster interest in the history of science and its social and cultural relations.

First awarded in 1959, the Pfizer Prize is funded by Pfizer, Inc. Prizes were formally presented at the HSS's annual meeting at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.

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