



EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

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Selene's Visible Face: Lunar Cartography and 19th and early 20th Century Moon Photography

The 1840s were a decade of firsts in the history of astronomical photography: the first successful daguerreotype of the Moon by Draper in March 1840; the first daguerreotype of a solar eclipse in 1842 by Majocchi; the first daguerreotype of the solar spectrum in 1843 by Draper, and the first daguerreotype of the sun in 1845 by Foucault and Fizeau. The daguerreotype, from the very first moment of its inception, was seen as a significant scientific tool to record monuments, or even as a tool for making photographic maps of the Moon, an example remarked upon by Arago, director of the Paris Observatory, when he informed the French Chamber of Deputies about the remarkable invention by Daguerre. During the following 15 years after that first daguerreotype of the Moon, great efforts were made to refine the technical aspects of daguerreotype applied to astronomy. In this talk we will question ourselves whether these improvements in the photographic technique helped to realize Arago's most ambitious expectations regarding mapping the surface of the Moon with the help of photography and, if so, when that happened. We will elaborate on how the early history of Moon photography was built upon the parallel refinement of the photographic technique (aiming at improving both the long exposure times and the poor definition of the image), and of the telescope (precisely the clock mechanism used to drive the equatorial) suitable to photograph the Moon.

Carmen Pérez González studied astrophysics as an undergraduate and did her doctoral work in the history of 19th century photography (*Local Portraiture: Through the Lens of the 19th Century Iranian Photographers*, Leiden University Press, 2012). From 2009 to 2014 she worked as a Curatorial Fellow at the Museum of East Asian Art in Cologne (exhibitor's catalogue: *From Istanbul to Yokohama: The Camera Meets Asia, 1839-1900*, MOK & Walther König Verlag, 2014). She is currently co-writing a book on Moon photography.

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