

## **Title: Mostly in the zone: Mathematics and 19th-century eclipse expeditions**

### **Abstract:**

In the second half of the 19th century, mathematical practitioners criss-crossed the globe to follow solar darkness in quest of scientific glory. Their high-stakes astronomical expeditions provided opportunities to test mathematical accuracy and to refine new observational tools that promised to reveal secrets of the solar corona. With widespread media coverage, this convergence of mathematical methods with cutting-edge science and technological innovation generated popular support. The results not only impacted the development of government funding for science, but also cultivated mathematical community and fostered the growth of specialised mathematical publication.