



MONOGRAPH ON ZERO

CALL FOR PAPERS

The ZerOrigIndia Foundation, a Netherlands-based non-profit organization that aims to elucidate the historical origin of the number zero, is presently compiling a *Monograph on Zero*, a collection of articles (up to 8000 words) expected to appear in 2019. For guidelines and style sheet, please apply below.

This is an appeal to academics across a range of disciplines with an interest in the subject to contribute a paper in their respective field of expertise, bearing on: a) ways and means of finding fresh evidence on the origin of zero in India; or b) the significance of zero in the field of expertise of the contributor concerned.

By way of introduction, the ZerOrigIndia Foundation has as its working hypothesis that the mathematical number zero originated in India in the period 200 BCE - 400 CE. The Foundation's aim is to find historical (be it textual, archaeological, paleographic or other) evidence of its earliest appearance in Indic civilization as an independent symbol with various applications (ritual, astrological, astronomical, mathematical, commercial etc.) and to elucidate the 'bridge', the socio-cultural-philosophical context, within which it may have taken place.

While focusing on India as zero's birthplace, the Foundation does not limit the search to India, but on the contrary welcomes research groups focusing on other ancient civilizations (Chinese, Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Mayan, etc.). The Foundation proposes to achieve its objective by facilitating academic research on targeted research topics, possibly formulated as Ph.D. or post-doctoral programs. The proposed *Monograph on Zero*, not intended to be exhaustive, will reflect the current state of the art on the subject and as such may provide sharper focus to the planned Ph.D. projects.

The renowned Brill Academic Publishers of the Netherlands, a trusted name in publishing enjoying distribution in the academic community worldwide, has agreed in principle to publish the *Monograph on Zero*, pending peer review.

Scholars and researchers interested to contribute a chapter to the *Monograph on Zero* are invited to submit only the *title and abstract* of their paper at earliest convenience, but no later than January 31, 2019. Invitations for 5-10 additional contributors.

It is striking that after several millennia the origin of zero, universally acclaimed as one of most useful and at the same time most mystery-cloaked innovations in human history, is still subject of debate in academic circles.

Nor is the so-called 'Zero Project' restricted to mere historic interest since preliminary research indicates that zero's disparate logico-syntactic framework, previously not known in the West, is rooted in the age-old Indic concepts of 'shunya' / Shunyata ('emptiness'), opening new vistas for further research.

Papers may be sent to Dr Elizabeth den Boer, editorial team coordinator:
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ZerOrigIndia Foundation

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