

Review of: "Early Renaissance Concepts of Time and the Invention of Mechanical Clocks"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The research on the history of science has taken a sharp point on the concept of time. It is quite beneficial to take a step back from a cosmological perspective on our current SI unit of time. The cultural aspects of the sociology of knowledge are not well researched, but it does not affect the richness of the subject matter of the article.

The strengths of the article are the integrations of the two competing views on the concept of time in history, with the historic artifacts presented as empirical evidence. It spans across several different cultures on different continents, connected by the concept of time accepted by the cultures that are reflected in the time-keeping technologies.

The limitations:

1. The author has not explicitly presented the physical mathematical criteria to evaluate the reasons for the comparison of accuracy between the mechanical clocks and sand clocks, which are quite important for the discussions here;
2. There is some lack of evidence on the communication of scientific ideas in history and across cultures that can justify the sociology of knowledge in the intercultural realm;
3. The perspective of science advancement is from the Western-predominant perspective and has not established a reference plane in the framework for the analyses of human activities in science.