Distinguished Lecture by Glenn W. Most (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

“Thales and the Beginning of Greek Philosophy”

UTM seminar ‘Dealing with Fragmentary Evidence from Graeco-Roman Antiquity’

(https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/historical-studies/events-news/seminar-series/utm-jhi-annual-seminar-series)

Thursday January 30 2020, 5 to 7 pm, MN 3230 (Collaborative Research Room)

The one thing that everyone knows about Thales is that he founded Greek philosophy by saying that everything comes from water. But can we be sure about this? What does it mean to found philosophy in general, and Greek philosophy in particular? And what do we know, or think we can know, about Thales? Reexamining afresh the ancient reports about Thales and the first book of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, in which it was first claimed that Thales founded Greek philosophy, suggests that matters are more complicated and more interesting.