

SCIENTIAE

DISCIPLINES OF KNOWING, 1400-1800

12th Annual Meeting

ISTANBUL

16-19 SEPTEMBER
2025

ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY

PROF. FUAT SEZGIN
CONGRESS & CULTURE
CENTER



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Feza Günergün (Professor Emerita of the History of Science)
- Harun Küçük (Assoc. Prof. of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania)

Hosted by Istanbul University Department of the History of Science

<https://bit.ly/Scientiae2025>



SCIENTIAE 2025 PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

16-19 September 2025

Istanbul University, Fuat Sezgin Congress and Culture Center

-----DAY 1 (16 September 2025)-----

11:00 – 12:00 | Registration & Welcome Coffee

12:00 – 13:00 | Opening Remarks

13:00 – 14:00 | Keynote Lecture (MAIN HALL)

Feza Günergün (*Professor Emerita of History of Science, Istanbul, Türkiye*)
Allegorists, Alchemists and Iatrochemists in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire

14:00 – 14:30 | Coffee Break

14:30 – 16:00 | Parallel Sessions

MAIN HALL

S.1.1. *Staging Knowledge: Performance, Play and Cultural Adaptation*

Chair: TBA

- **Adam Rzepka** (*Montclair State University*) – “This Under Globe”: Proprioceptive Worldmaking in Shakespeare’s Public Theaters
- **M. Fatih Çalışır** (*Istanbul University Institute for Islamic Studies*) – Cultural Encounters and Adaptations in the Late Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Empire: Theater, Portraiture, and Knowledge Transmission
- **Matthias Roick** (*Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Philosophy and Sociology*) – Playing at the World: Students, Chess Knowledge, and Its Global Dimension

ROOM 1

S.1.2. *Reading, Collecting, and Translating Medicine across Religious and Linguistic Boundaries*

Chair: TBA

- **Mustafa Yavuz** (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – The Ottoman Reception of Matthioli’s *De Materia Medica*: Knowledge Transmission and Pharmacobotanical Adaptation
- **Kadir Çelik** (*Ege University*) – A Non-Muslim Source of Ottoman Medicine: The Case of Garshuni Manuscript in Mardin
- **Dina Bacalexi** (*Centre national de la recherche scientifique*) – What’s in a Book Collector’s Mind? Delving into the Renaissance Medical Library of Laurentius de Rubeis

ROOM 2

S.1.3. *Echoes of Antiquity: Myth, Philosophy, and the Stars in Early Modern Thought*

Chair: TBA

- **Giulia Beccaria** (*Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici*) – *National and Kapodistrian University, Athens*) – Leopardi as a Byzantine Scholar, Translator of George Gemistos Plethon
- **Monika Frazer-Imregh** (*Károli University*) – *Ascensio ad Deum*, a Neoplatonic Program in Renaissance Disguise: The Reception of the Teachings of Ficino and Pico in H. C. Agrippa von Nettesheim's *De Occulta Philosophia*
- **Agata Starownik** (*University of Warsaw*) – The Cycle of Seven Planets – Iconography and Applications

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:45 | Round Table (MAIN HALL)

Translation of Scientific Texts into Ottoman Turkish in the Early Modern Era

Chair: TBA

Speakers: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (*Professor Emeritus of History of Science, Honorary President of the Turkish Society for the History of Science*), Kaan Üçsu (*Istanbul University*), Ahmet Tunç Şen (*Columbia University*)

17:45 – 21:30 | Welcome Reception

-----DAY 2 (17 September 2025)-----

9:15 – 10:45 | Parallel Sessions and Panels

MAIN HALL

S.2.1. *The Interaction of Knowledge, Collections, and Instruments: From Encyclopedic Arrangements to Astronomical Simulations*

Chair: TBA

- **Samuel Gessner** (*CIUHCT, University of Lisbon*) – Instruments of Insight: Revealing the Tangible Dialogue Between Books and Instruments in Libraries
- **Gaye Danışan** (*Istanbul University*) – Simulating Lunar Motions: Ghiyāth al-Dīn ibn Faṭḥ-ʿAllāh al-Kātib al-Baghdādī's Heart-Shaped Diagram in the Context of Ottoman Volvelles
- **Jindra Kubickova** (*Charles University*) & **Zuzana Vařáková**, (*Charles University*) – The Encyclopedic Nature of the Collection of Kunstkammer of Emperor Rudolf II in Prague

ROOM 1

P.2.1. *Newtonian Trajectories: Local Adaptations and Global Receptions in the Eighteenth Century*

Organizer: Derya Gürses Tarbuck, *Bahcesehir University*

Chair/Discussant: Kapil Raj (*EHESS-Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Centre Alexandre Koyré*)

- **Dhruv Raina** (*Jawaharlal Nehru University*) – Newtonianism in India: Knowledge, Resistance, and Hybridities
- **Rob Illife** (*University of Oxford*) – Global Newtonianism
- **Derya Gürses Tarbuck** (*Bahcesehir University*) – British Anti-Newtonianism: Hutchinsonians and the Limits of Universal Science

ROOM 2

S.2.2. Text and Transmission: Interpretive Practices and Scholarly Networks in Early Modern Europe

Chair: TBA

- **Lenka Řezníková** (*Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences*) – Rooted or Planted? The Power of Etymology in J. A. Comenius and Early Modern Culture of Knowledge
- **Vladimír Urbánek** (*Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences*) – News and Prophecy Between Upper Hungary and Amsterdam: Mikuláš Drabík, Jan Amos Comenius and Learned Communication
- **Jiri Michalik** (*Palacky University Olomouc*) – Early Critics of the Rosicrucian Manifestos: Budovec and Libavius

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 | Parallel Sessions and Panels

MAIN HALL

S.2.3. From Observations to Representations: The Cultural Lives of Astronomy

Chair: Vladimír Urbánek, (*Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences*)

- **Justyna Rogińska** (*Institute for the History of Science, Polish Academy of Sciences*) – Gottfried Kirch's Observational Journals (1677–1710) and the Secrets of Early Modern Astronomical Observations
- **Maciej Jasiński** (*Polish Academy of Sciences*) – Sobieski Moves the Sun: Poems Dedicated to King Jan III of Poland by Johannes Hevelius's Correspondents
- **Sergio Orozco-Echeverri** (*Universidad de Antioquia*) – Almanacs for a New World: The Practical Transformation of Medical Astrology and Meteorology in Repertorios de Los Tiempos (1495–1621)

ROOM 1

P.2.2. The Concept of the Sciences in Bernard de Fontenelle's Philosophy

Chair: TBA

- **Daniel Špelda** (*Masaryk University*) – Bernard de Fontenelle's *Histoire de l'Académie Royale* (1699–1714): Science Pulls Back the Veil of Nature
- **Dagmar Pichová** (*Masaryk University*) – The Deaths of Academicians in Fontenelle's *Éloges des académiciens*
- **Eszter Kovács** (*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*) – Giants in a Scientific Battlefield: Du Châtelet's Annotations on Academic Eulogies

ROOM 2

S.2.4. Wonder and Correction: Interrogating Knowledge Across Early Modern Geographies

Chair: TBA

- **Matthijs Jonker** (*Utrecht University*) – A Polyglot Parrot in Baroque Rome
- **Feray Coşkun** (*Ozyegin University*) – Between Wonder and Skepticism: Ottoman Engagement with Medieval Islamic Cosmographies
- **Djoeke van Netten** (*University of Amsterdam*) – Correcting Arctic Knowledge. Uncertain Islands and Animals in Far North

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch & Optional visit to the IU Turkish Hamam Culture Museum, Rıdvan Çelikel Archaeology Museum or IU Rare Books Library Collections (Registration Required)

14:30 – 16:00 | Parallel Sessions and Panels

MAIN HALL

P.2.3. Cross-Cultural-ness of Astronomical Instrumentation Reconsidered

Organizer: Silke Ackermann, (*History of Science Museum, Oxford University*) & Taha Yasin Arslan, (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*)

Chair: TBA

- **Silke Ackermann** (*History of Science Museum, Oxford University*) & **Taha Yasin Arslan**, (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – What do we mean by “Islamic Science” in Museums?
- **Afra Akyol** (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Front of the Astrolabe’s Mater
- **Beyza Topçuoğlu** (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – Al-Shāmīla as a Sundial: Tracing Its Influence Across Civilizations
- **Feyzanur Şaşmaz Akyüz** (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – Comparative Study on Astrolabe Manuals from the 14th Century Islamic Civilisation and the West

ROOM 1

S.2.5. Intellectual Mobility, Commerce, and Academic Networks

Chair: TBA

- **Stefano Gulizia** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – Gift-Economy and the Jesuit Management of Relics in the Asian Mission
- **Mai Lootah** (*Rice University*) – Intellectual Mobility and the Dutch East India Company: The Republic of Letters in the Ottoman World
- **Nihal Özdemir** (*Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University*) – Science, Commerce, and the Circulation of Knowledge: The James Watt and Matthew Boulton Partnership in 18th-Century Knowledge Networks

ROOM 2

S.2.6. Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Knowledge, Belief, and Cultural Imagination

Chair: Matthijs Jonker (*Utrecht University*)

- **Brian Li** (*University of Cambridge*) – The Stone-Eaters: Lithophagy and Scholarly Fantasies of Ascetic Diets in Late Imperial China
- **Juan Acevedo** (*University of Lisbon*) – Non-Western Science and Arts: A View from Latin America Through the Works of J.M. Briceño Guerrero
- **Nicolò Cantoni** (*Vrije Universiteit Brussels*) – The City of Abraham and the City of the Sabians: Harran’s Legacy in Early Modern Europe

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15-17:15 | Keynote Lecture (MAIN HALL)

Harun Küçük (*Associate Professor of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, USA*)

Is It Time to Abandon 'Islamic Science'? Genres, Languages, Centers and the Problem of Periodization in Light of Recent Scholarship

17:30 – 19:00 | Optional visit to the Yenikapı Shipwrecks (Gathering at 17:30) (Limited to 30 people; Registration required)

-----DAY 3 (18 September 2025)-----

9:15 – 10:45 | Plenary Panel (MAIN HALL)

P.3.1 Together, with, against: Building and Reassembling Astronomical Traditions in Three Different Contexts

Chair: Matthieu Hussoni (*LTE-Observatoire de Paris*)

- **Florence Somer** (*Observatoire de Paris*) – The Taqvim B-1441 of the Fuzuli Institute of Manuscript (Əlyazmalar İnstitutu) held in Baku
- **Sophie Serra** (*Lund University, Department of Philosophy*) – Authorities and Controversies in Latin 15th Century Astronomy: The Case of Manuscript Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Lat. Fol. 246
- **Divna Manolova** (*Ghent University, Department of Literary Studies, Greek Section*) – John Nathaniel's Cosmological Dossier in Vaticanus Graecus 1908 and Its Place in the Manuscript Tradition of Cleomedes' The Heavens

10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 | Parallel Sessions and Panels

MAIN HALL

P.3.2. Prognostication, Fortune, and Risk: How Early Modern People Navigated Material Fortunes through Almanacs and Astrological Consultations

Chair: Ahmet Tunç Şen (*Columbia University*)

- **Jakub Ochocinski** (*European University Institute*) – Celestial Science and Practical Knowledge: Everyday Uses of Calendars in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- **Tunahan Durmaz** (*European University Institute*) – A 'Pathology' of Prognostications: Courtly Politics of Medical Astrology in Ottoman Istanbul in the Late 17th Century
- **Luís Campos Ribeiro** (*University of Lisbon*) – How It Shall Speed? Astrological Practices in Early Modern Nautical Culture

ROOM 1

S.3.1. Sacred Authority and the Politics of Faith in Early Modern Cultural Landscapes

Chair: TBA

- **Lisa Klotz** (*University of California*) – Kepler, Witchcraft, and the Law
- **Zachary Schwarze** (*Department of Religion, Rice University*) – Light-Dark and Death Divine: "Bad Mariology" in Colonial Mexico
- **Erin Bell** (*University of Lincoln*) – From Prophets to Martyrs in the First Two Generations of Quakerism, 1650s-1690

ROOM 2

S.3.2. *Intellectual Lineages and Methodological Innovations in Early Modern Studies*

Chair: TBA

- **Gerhard Wiesenfeldt** (*University of Melbourne*) – Dynasties and Networks: Knowledge in Academic Families
- **Karine Durin** (*University of Nantes*) – Opinions and Experiments in Antonio Gómez Pereira's *Antoniana Margarita* (1554): Digression and History in Natural Philosophy
- **Thijs Ossenkoppele** (*University of Amsterdam*) – Counting the Bees: A Data-Driven Investigation into Early Modern British Thought (1605-1776)

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

12:30 – 14:15 | Lunch (Lunch Box) & Optional visit to the IU Turkish Hamam Culture Museum or Rıdvan Çelikel Archaeology Museum (Registration Required)

14:15 – 15:45 | Parallel Panels and Workshop

MAIN HALL

P.3.3. *Cultures of Trust and Global Connections in Early Modernity. Remarks on Pacts and Agreements in Western and Central-Eastern European Texts*

Organizer: Luisa Brotto, *University of Pisa*

Chair: Matthias Roick (*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences*)

- **Lorenzo Fancello** (*University of Pisa*) – Pierre Gassendi and Baruch Spinoza: The Advantages of Cooperation
- **Filippo Marchetti** (*University of Pisa*) – Defending Utopia, or Which Political Theology Best Suits the Polis
- **Luisa Brotto** (*University of Pisa*) – Reaching Agreements in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: Early Modern Trust-Based Strategies for Conflict Management

ROOM 1

P.3.4. *Ways of Knowing Water in Early Modern Europe*

Chair: TBA

- **Samuel Barney Blanco** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – Professional Expertise and Measuring Water Justice in Early Modern Rural Communities: The Venetian Terraferma and the Kingdom of Valencia (1500–1600)
- **Oscar Schiavone** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – Experimenting with Water at the Spa: Francesco Redi as a Chemist in Bagni di Lucca (1669)
- **David Gentilcore** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – The Knowledge and Practice of Water Quality in Early Modern Europe

ROOM 2

No session scheduled

ROOM 3 | WORKSHOP

W.3.1. *Digital Humanities and Artificial Intelligence: Methodological Developments in the Study of Astronomical Sources*

Organizers: Jade Norindr (*LTE-Observatoire de Paris*), Matthieu Husson (*LTE-Observatoire de Paris*)

15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 | Round Table (MAIN HALL)

On a Personal Note: Handwritten Knowledge Transfer in Ego-Documents

Chair: Matthias Roick (*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences*)

Speakers: Alicja Bielak (*Polish Academy of Sciences*), Gábor Fököli (*Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology*), Sooyong Kim (*Koç University, Department of Comparative Literature*)

17:30 - 19:00 | Optional visit to the Yenikapı Shipwrecks (Gathering at 17:30) (Limited to 30 people; Registration required)

-----DAY 4 (19 September 2025)-----

9:15 – 10:45 | Parallel Sessions and Panels

MAIN HALL

P.4.1. *Medicine and Slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean World*

Organizer: Valentina Pugliano (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*)

Chair: TBA

- **Valentina Pugliano** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – Alessandro Pini (1653–1717), Medico Condotta: Galley Slavery, Medical Practice and Venetian Public Health
- **Carolin Schmitz** (*King's College London*) – Healing and Belonging Across the Greater Mediterranean: Connecting Case Studies of Minoritized Healers from the Canary Islands to Malta
- **Ana Struillou** (*Institute of Historical Research, London*) – Captivity, Slavery and Circulation of Medical Knowledge Between Early Modern Spain and North Africa

ROOM 1

S.4.1. *Astronomy in Practice: Instruments, Texts, and Cross-Cultural Dialogues*

Chair: Florence Somer (*Observatoire de Paris*)

- **Mostafa Yavari** (*University of Tehran, Institute for the History of Science*) – The Unsanctified Space: Observatories in Islamic Lands
- **Kaveh Niazi** (*Stanford Online High School*) – An Astronomical Summa of the Safavid Era: Tashrīḥ al-Aflāk by Bahā' al-Dīn al-Āmilī
- **Maedeh Hosseinzadeh** (*University of Tehran*) – A Study on the Chronology Section of Al-Kāshī's Astronomical Book

ROOM 2

S.4.2. *Sparks of Knowledge: Early Electrical Science and Its Cultural Resonance*

Chair: TBA

- **Lorenzo Voltolina** (*Università di Padova*) – Giovanni Poleni and the Early Development of Electrical Science in Northern Italy
- **Tuğçe Esenduran** (*Istanbul Technical University, Department of the History of Science and Technology*) – Scientific Instruments of the 18th-Century Electrical Phenomena from a Philosophical Perspective: An Analysis in the Light of Sturgeon's Lectures on Electricity
- **Irina Tautschnig** (*University of York*) – Poetic Sparks: Electricity in Eighteenth-Century Neo-Latin Verse

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

10:45 - 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 | Parallel Sessions, Panels and Workshop

MAIN HALL

S.4.3. *Medicine, Morality, and the Supernatural: Cultural Narratives of Health in Premodern Societies*

Chair: TBA

- **Dávid Molnár** (*University of Tokaj*) – The Divine and Demonic Beverage: Antonio Gazio's Medical Treatise on Wine and Beer
- **Salome Gviniashvili** (*Independent Researcher*) – Sacred Healing: The Interplay of Magic and Religion in Georgian Folk Medicine
- **Elisa Ramazzina** (*University of Insubria*) – The Science of Aging: Metaphors, Medicine and the Quest for Vitality in Early Modern England

ROOM 1

S4.4. *The Movement of Science: Optical, Astronomical, and Horological Knowledge Across Cultures*

Chair: Gaye Danişan (*Istanbul University*)

- **Sena Aydın** (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*) – Light-Colour Relationship in Taqi al-Din and His Primary Source Ibn al-Haytham
- **Víctor Pérez-Álvarez** (*Independent Researcher*) – Islamic Clepsydrae in the Christian Spain During the Late Middle Ages
- **S. Ceren Özdemir** (*Independent Researcher*) – The Armillary Sphere in Molla Ali's Risâle-i Meyyâl: A 17th-Century Latin-to-Ottoman Turkish Translation and Its Structural-Functional Analysis

ROOM 2 *60 mins

P.4.2. *Inside/Outside the 'Box': Boundaries, Materiality and Affect in the Early Modern Home*

Chair: Matthijs Jonker (*Utrecht University*)

- **Christine Quach** (*University of Maryland*) – Capturing Time: Temporal Shifts in Boxed Enclosures
- **Nur'Ain Taha** (*Utrecht University*) – Whalebone Wonders: Materiality, Craft and Knowledge of Baleen Boxes in Early Modern Netherlands

ROOM 3 | WORKSHOP

W.4.1. *How Can We Use the Astrolabe in Education to Inspire a New Generation?*

Organizer: Wilfred de Graaf (*Utrecht University*)

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch (Lunch Box) & Optional visit to the IU Turkish Hamam Culture Museum, Rıdvan Çelikel Archaeology Museum or IU Rare Books Library Collections (Registration Required)

14:00 – 16:00 | Parallel Sessions

MAIN HALL *90 mins

S.4.5. *Medical and Natural Knowledge Networks in the Early Modern Ottoman and European Worlds*

Chair: Stefano Gulizia, (Ca' Foscari University in Venice)

- **Jessica Hogbin** (Syracuse University) – Recording Melancholic Deaths: Necrologies and Healthcare in Early Modern Venice and Padua
- **Zongbei Huang** (Tsinghua University, Department of the History of Science) – Rembert Dodoens's Construction of an Epistemology of Observational Experience: A Case in Sixteenth-Century Medical Empiricism
- **Nazime Özgür Tamdoğan** (Ankara University) – An Evaluation for the Understanding of Rational Sciences in the Context of Natural Sciences Works in the Classical Period Ottoman

ROOM 1

S.4.6. *Embodied Knowledge: Applied Sciences and Material Practices in Ottoman and Arabic Traditions*

Chair: TBA

- **Sarah Sabban** (American University of Beirut) – Ways of Knowing: Exploring Science and Practice in the Early Modern Arabic Notion of al-Şinā'a
- **Deren Ertaş** (Harvard University) – From the Mine to the Market: A History of Silver in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Empire
- **Alper Atasoy** (Independent Researcher) – Cross-Cultural Knowledge Transfer in Military Reform: The Impact of Rochefort's 1717 Proposal on the Ottoman Empire

ROOM 2

S.4.7. *Reframing Knowledge: Critical Approaches to Historiography, Evidence, and Representation*

Chair: TBA

- **Utku Can Akin** (University of Toronto) – How Not to Contextualise Materialism in Ottoman Historiography
- **Andre Araujo** (University of Brasilia) – The Graphic (Re)Configuration of Historical Evidence: The Collective Construction of Diplomats in Eighteenth-Century Germany
- **Gül Kale** (Carleton University) – A Critical Historiography of the Intersection Between History of Architecture and Science in the Islamic World
- **Alessia Salierno** (Università degli Studi di Milano) – Leibniz on the Representation of Geometrical Objects: The Role of Algebra

ROOM 3

No session scheduled

16:00 - 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:15 | Conference Closing and Annual General Meeting (MAIN HALL)

17:30 - 19:30 | Closing Reception