

# SCIENTIAE 2025 ISTANBUL PROGRAMME

16-19 September 2025  
Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters

## DAY 1 Tue (16 September 2025)

11:00 – 12:15 | Registration & Welcome Coffee (HALL OF HONOR/ŞEREF HOLÜ)

12:15 – 12:45 | Opening Remarks (MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI)

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

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

14:00 – 14:30 | Coffee Break (Hall of Honor/Şeref Holü)

14:30 – 16:00 | Plenary Session (MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI)

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

**Organizer:** Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

**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*)

16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break (Hall of Honor/Şeref Holü)

16:15 – 17:45 | Parallel Sessions

MAIN HALL /KURUL ODASI

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

**Chair:** Samuel Gessner (*CIUHCT, University of Lisbon*)

- **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

AMFI 8

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

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

- **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 Bacalexı** (*Centre national de la recherche scientifique*) – What’s in a Book Collector’s Mind? Delving into the Renaissance Medical Library of Laurentius de Rubeis

#### AMFI 9

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

Chair: Divna Manolova (Ghent University)

- **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

19:00 – 21:30 | Welcome Reception at *Orient-Institut Istanbul*

## DAY 2 Wed (17 September 2025)

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

#### MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI

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

Chair: Ahmet Tunç Şen (Columbia University)

- **Samuel Gessner** (CIUHCT, University of Lisbon) – Instruments of Insight: Revealing the Tangible Dialogue Between Books and Instruments in Libraries
- **Gaye Danişan** (Istanbul University) – Simulating Lunar Motions: Ghiyāth al-Dīn ibn Fath-‘Allāh 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

#### AMFI 8

##### P.2.1. *The Concept of the Sciences in Bernard de Fontenelle's Philosophy*

Chair: Sophie Serra (Lund University, Department of Philosophy)

- **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

#### AMFI 9

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

Chair: Gerhard Wiesenfeldt (University of Melbourne)

- **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 Drábík, Jan Amos Comenius and Learned Communication
- **Jiri Michalik** (Palacky University Olomouc) – Early Critics of the Rosicrucian Manifestos: Budovec and Libavius

10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break (Hall of Honor/Şeref Holü)

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

### MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI

#### P.2.2. *Making Science Global: Examples from Mesmerism and Newtonianism*

**Organizer:** Derya Gürses Tarbuck, (*Bahcesehir University*)

**Chair:** Stefano Gulizia (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*)

- **Rob Illife** (*University of Oxford*) & **Derya Gürses Tarbuck** (*Bahcesehir University*) – Newtonianism in Action: the Making of a Global Movement
- **Kapil Raj** (*EHESS-Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Centre Alexandre Koyré*) – What does it Take to Make Science Global? Moving Mesmerism from France to Britain to Colonial India in the mid-19th Century

#### AMFI 8

##### 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

#### AMFI 9

##### S.2.4. *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

**12:00 – 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/KURUL ODASI

#### 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:** Taha Yasin Arslan (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*)

- **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
- **Beyzanur 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

#### AMFI 8

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

**Chair:** Luís Campos Ribeiro (*University of Lisbon*)

- **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

## AMFI 9

### S.2.6. *Wonder and Correction: Interrogating Knowledge Across Early Modern Geographies*

Chair: Juan Acevedo (*University of Lisbon*)

- **Matthijs Jonker** (*Utrecht University*) – A Polyglot Parrot in Baroque Rome
- **Feray Coşkun** (*Özyeğin 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

16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

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

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* (Limited to 30 people; Registration required)

## DAY 3 Thu (18 September 2025)

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

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/KURUL ODASI

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

Chair: Florence Somer (*Observatoire de Paris*)

- **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

## AMFI 8

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

Chair: Monika Frazer-Imregh (*Károli University*)

- **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

## AMFI 9

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

Chair: Feray Coşkun (Özyeğin University)

- **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)

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

**14:30 – 16:00 | Parallel Panels and Workshop**

## MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI

### 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

## AMFI 8

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

Chair: Andre Araujo (University of Brasilia)

- **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

## D328 | WORKSHOP

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

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

**16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break**

**16:15 – 17:45 | 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 Förköli (Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology), Sooyong Kim (Koç University, Department of Comparative Literature)

**17:45 - 19:30 | Optional visit to the *Yenikapı Shipwrecks* (Limited to 30 people; Registration required)**

# DAY 4 Fri (19 September 2025)

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

## MAIN HALL

### S.4.1. *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

## AMFI 8

### S.4.2. *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 Taqī al-Dīn 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

## AMFI 9

### S.4.3. *Embodied Knowledge: Applied Sciences and Material Practices in Ottoman and Arabic Traditions*

Chair: Nazan Karakaş Özür (Çankırı Karatekin University)

- **Sarah Sabban** (Lebanese American University) – Ways of Knowing: Exploring Science and Practice in the Early Modern Arabic Notion of al-*Ṣināʿa*
- **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

10:45 - 11:00 | Coffee Break

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

## MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI

### S.4.4. *Medicine, Morality, and the Supernatural: Cultural Narratives of Health in Premodern Societies*

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

- **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

## AMFI 8

### S.4.5. *Reframing Knowledge: Critical Approaches to Historiography, Evidence, and Representation*

Chair: Kaan Üçsu (Istanbul University)

- **Utku Can Akın** (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

## AMFI 9

### S.4.6. *Sparks of Knowledge: Early Electrical Science and Mathematical Perspectives*

Chair: Meltem Kocaman (*Istanbul University*)

- **Lorenzo Voltolina** (*Università di Padova*) – Giovanni Poleni and the Early Development of Electrical Science in Northern Italy
- **Tuğçe Esenduran** (*Istanbul Technical University*) – Scientific Instruments of the 18th-Century Electrical Phenomena from a Philosophical Perspective: An Analysis in the Light of Sturgeon's Lectures on Electricity
- **Alessia Salierno** (*Università degli Studi di Milano*) – Leibniz on the Representation of Geometrical Objects: The Role of Algebra

## D328 | 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 – 14:30 | Lunch & Optional visit to the *IU Turkish Hamam Culture Museum, Rıdvan Çelikel Archaeology Museum or IU Rare Books Library Collections* (Registration Required)**

**14:30 – 15:30 | Parallel Sessions**

## MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI

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

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

Chair: Mustafa Yavuz (*Istanbul Medeniyet University*)

- **Valentina Pugliano** (*Ca' Foscari University of Venice*) – Alessandro Pini (1653–1717), Medico Condotta: Galley Slavery, Medical Practice and Venetian Public Health
- **Ana Struillou** (*Institute of Historical Research, London*) – Captivity, Slavery and Circulation of Medical Knowledge Between Early Modern Spain and North Africa

## AMFI 8

### S.4.7. *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

## AMFI 9

### 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

**15:30 - 15:45 | Coffee Break**

**15:45 - 16:45 | Conference Closing and Annual General Meeting (MAIN HALL/KURUL ODASI)**

**16:45 - 17:30 Conference Photoshoot & Gathering in Hall of Honor/Şeref Holü before proceeding to the IU Observatory for Closing Reception**

**17:30 - 19:00 | Tour of the Historical Telescope, Gleissberg Astronomical Collection, Planetarium Show**

**19:00 - 21:30 | Closing Reception at *Istanbul University Observatory Garden***