

## AN IN-PERSON WORKSHOP (Warsaw, 25–26 January 2024)

### Venue

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
72 Nowy Świat Street, conference room Hall of Mirrors (main floor), Warsaw

### Convenors

#### Josefina Rodríguez-Arribas

(L. & A. Birkenmajer Institute for the History of Science, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

#### Valentina Lepri

(Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

#### Jarosław Włodarczyk

(L. & A. Birkenmajer Institute for the History of Science, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

### Sponsored by

*PERIPHERIES—Minority Cultures on the Periphery of Science: The Jews and the Circulation of Scientific Goods* (funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 under the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** grant agreement No. 847639).

*KNOWSTUDENTS—From East to West, and Back Again: Student Travel and Transcultural Knowledge Production in Renaissance Europe (c. 1470–c. 1620)* (funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 under a **ERC Consolidator Grant** agreement No. 864542).

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**Free attendance**



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# BEING A MINORITY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN SCIENCES

Warsaw, 25–26 January 2024



# BEING A MINORITY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN SCIENCES

*Being a minority in medieval and early modern sciences* explores the emergence, significance, limitations, advantages (if any), and specific features of minorities engaged in the study and/or practice of the sciences and philosophy across history, cultures, and societies, from the 13th through the 17th century. We want to unveil and reflect on how the 'minority' status might have conditioned, shaped, invisibilized, or connoted the minority's approach to scientific and philosophical topics, and to what extent the forms and results of the scientific engagement might have affected or modified the minority's social and cultural status, living conditions, image, and identity. We are also interested in how this minority status might have affected minor or understudied fields of knowledge or peripheral aspects within specific scientific disciplines. Here, the term 'minority' is understood broadly (gender, language, disability, religion, heterodoxy, ethnicity, etc.), the same as science (medicine, astronomy, astrology, natural philosophy, etc.). The timeframe would extend through the 17th century, and there is no geographical limit.

The workshop will bring together scholars and students alike, welcoming their diverse methodological backgrounds and perspectives. Our goal is to create an inclusive and diverse platform that fosters meaningful discussions on the social and cultural aspects of minorities and the sciences throughout different historical periods and cultures. By engaging in this multidisciplinary exploration, we hope to gain deeper insights into the complex interplay between scientific pursuits and minority experiences in the past.

## **Suf Amichay**

(Department of History of Science, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, UK)

## **Daniele Arciello**

(Humanism and Classical Tradition Institute, University of León, León, Spain)

## **Gaston Javier Basile**

(The Medici Archive Project, Palazzo Alberti, Florence, Italy)

## **Luisa Brotto**

(Department of Civilizations and Forms of Knowledge, University of Pisa, Italy)

## **Jasmine Dum-Tragut**

(Centre for the Study of the Christian East, University of Salzburg, Austria)

## **Samuel England**

(Department of African Cultural Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, USA)

## **Florence Forte**

(The Warburg Institute, London, UK, and the Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy)

## **Lavinia Gambini**

(Jesus College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK)

## **Lúa Blanca Garea Garrido**

(Department of Classical, French, and Italian Philology, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain)

## **Magdaléna Jánošíková**

(The Polonsky Academy, Jerusalem, Israel)

## **Valentina Lepri**

(Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland)

## **Ioana Manea**

(Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Ovidius U. in Constanța, Romania)

## **Gabriele Marcon**

(I Tatti - Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Harvard University, USA)

## **Marco Sgarbi**

(Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy)

## **Dennj Solera**

(Department of History and Cultural Heritage, University of Siena, Italy)

## **Sebastian Türk**

(Department of Applied Foreign Languages, German Studies, University of Orléans, France)



## Thursday, 25 January 2024

- 9:15–9:30 **Introductory remarks.**  
Josefina **Rodríguez-Arribas**
- 9:30–10:30 **Keynote lecture**  
Jasmine **Dum-Tragut**: *Hak'im-baytar-bžišk*–The Armenian Medical Sciences from the Tenth to the Sixteenth Centuries
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00–12:30 **Session 1 (Medicine)**  
Magdaléna **Jánošíková**: The Scientific Book as a Minority Imaginary: Early Modern Jewish Medical Book and its Place in the Archive  
Lavinia **Gambini**: ‘Because I am Greek, everybody calls me a Witch’: Eastern Mediterranean Female Practitioners and Medical Authority in Early Modern Italy  
Gaston Javier **Basile**: Heterodox Healers: Health Agents and Traditions in Renaissance Florence Ricettari
- 12:30–14:00 Lunch
- 14:00–15:15 **Session 2 (Philosophy)**  
Suf **Amichay**: Medieval Jewish Radical Aristotelianism: A Study Case in Scientific Isolation  
Luisa **Brotto**: “Vicious Virtues” and Female Awareness. On Marie De Gournay’s Moral Philosophy
- 15:15–15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45–17:00 **Session 3 (Sciences I)**  
Samuel **England**: Al-Ma‘arri and the Emergence of a Sightless Science  
Gabriele **Marcon**: How to Fight a Stereotype: Women’s Knowledge and Work in Early Modern Mining
- 17:00–19:00 Tour of Warsaw Old Town

## Friday, 26 January 2024

- 9:30–10:30 **Keynote lecture**  
Marco **Sgarbi**: Consumers of Knowledge in Renaissance Italy
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00–12:30 **Session 4 (Sciences II)**  
Lúa Blanca **Garea Garrido**: The Study of the Natural Sciences in Galicia during the Thirteenth Century as a little-recognised Field: Causes and Consequences  
Daniele **Arciello**: Colonial Astronomy *versus* European Prejudices. The Minority Condition of American *Criollos* and the Scientific Demonstration in Sigüenza and Góngora’s *Libra astronómica y filosófica* (1690)  
Ioana **Manea**: Debatable Zoology from the Perspective of a Minority Heterodox Author – Monsters and Unicorns in Isaac La Peyrère’s Relation du Groenland (1647)
- 12:30–14:00 Lunch
- 14:00–15:15 **Session 5 (Theology)**  
Florence **Forte**: The Genesis Question: Defending Eve in Isotta Nogarola’s Latin Disputation (1451) and Beyond  
Sebastian **Türk**: Mysticism, Radical Pietism and New Approaches to Religious Knowledge between France and Germany
- 15:15–15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45–17:00 **Session 6 (Minorities in the Academia)**  
Valentina **Lepri**: Juan Vives’ Vademecum for Making Students as Agents of Knowledge  
Dennj **Solera**: Nabbing a Title: Jews, Orthodox, and Protestants at the University of Padua (Fifteenth-Eighteenth Centuries)
- 17:00–18:00 **Round table**