



Contribution ID: 49

Type: **Invited**

When the time was ripe to publish Copernicus: a view of the European intellectual context of the first half of the 16th century

Wednesday, 6 September 2023 09:15 (30 minutes)

The talk elucidates the context of transformation of astronomical knowledge in the years when Nicholas Copernicus' work saw the light of day, the *Revolutionibus orbium coelestium* of 1543. In particular, it is intended to show that the publication took place at the beginning of a period in which the processes of transformation, dissemination and accumulation of scientific knowledge had taken on a dynamic quite different from the previous period and marked by a greater speed of dissemination, an enlargement of the space of knowledge circulation and, above all, a marked tendency toward scientific innovation.

Thus, taking the perspective of the potential audience of Copernicus' text, it will be shown how the publication was the consequence of a changed intellectual environment and economy of knowledge due to Wittenberg's entry into the scene as a scientific center.

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Session Classification: Copernico e il nuovo Cosmo / Copernicus' Changeover From the Old to the New Cosmos

Track Classification: SISFA 2023