



46th National Congress
of the Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy
Naples, 15-18 September 2026

Second Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the 46th Annual Congress of the *Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy* will take place in Naples from 15 to 18 September 2026, hosted by the INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte, the Museum of Physics of the University of Naples Federico II, and the historical building of the INGV-Vesuvius Observatory.

General Information and Scientific Program

Organizer

Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy (SISFA).

Organizing and Scientific Committee

Rosanna Del Monte (University of Naples Federico II); Salvatore Esposito (University of Naples Federico II); Ivana Gambaro (University of Genova); Mauro Gargano (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Enrico Giannetto (University of Bergamo); Salvatore Magazù (University of Messina); Elisabetta Rossi (University of Bologna); Valeria Zanini (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Padova)

Local Organizing Committee

Rosario Aiello (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Alessandro Amabile (University of Naples Federico II); Ilda Cozzolino (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Maddalena De Lucia (INGV-Vesuvius Observatory); Rosanna Del Monte (University of Naples Federico II); Salvatore Esposito (University of Naples Federico II); Modestino Iafanti (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Mauro Gargano (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Guido Mascolo (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte); Angelica Perrotta (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte)

Congress website: <https://indico.ict.inaf.it/e/napoli-2026>

Official email: congresso@sisfa.org

The Congress

The Congress is part of a long-standing series that SISFA has organized annually since its foundation. Its aim is to promote research in the history of physics and astronomy in Italy, carried out by academic historians, independent scholars, and school teachers interested in exploring the role of historical perspectives in contemporary science education. The Meeting also provides an opportunity to strengthen existing collaborations and establish new links among SISFA members, other scholarly societies, and researchers working in related fields. Historians of physics and astronomy are invited to participate, and the invitation is extended to all scholars and researchers sharing similar interests.

The program will include invited lectures and oral communications. The official languages of the Congress are Italian and English. Updates and further information will be posted on the Congress website.

The *Premio di Laurea SISFA 2026* for the Best Graduate Thesis in History of Physics and/or History of Astronomy will be awarded during the Congress.

The Congress benefits from the financial and technical support of the National Institute for Astrophysics, University of Naples Federico II (Department of Physics and Museum Center of Natural and Physical Sciences), Interuniversity Consortium of Applied Physical Sciences of the Messina University, National Committee for the Celebrations of the Bicentennial of the Death of Father Giuseppe Piazzi, National Institute for Nuclear Physics (Naples Section), and INGV-Vesuvius Observatory.

The congress is held under the patronage of Comune di Napoli, International Astronomical Union, Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, and the Società Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti in Napoli.

Topics

Proposals for oral communications should focus on the history of physics and astronomy and their connections with related areas such as mathematics, chemistry, and the history of science and culture. Contributions on historical instruments, documentary sources, and the use of the history of science in education and museum practices are also welcome.

Thematic sessions

- **The Physics of the Cat: One Hundred Years Since Schrödinger's Equation**

A historical and conceptual reflection on Schrödinger's equation and its legacy in contemporary physics, with particular attention to interpretations, debates, and cultural repercussions.

Invited speakers: Jürgen Renn, *Max Planck Institute* ; Olivier Darrigol, *CNRS-Université Denis Diderot*

- **The Historical and Scientific Legacy of Giuseppe Piazzi**

A session dedicated to Giuseppe Piazzi, his role in the history of astronomy, and the documentary and instrumental heritage associated with him.

Invited speaker: Ileana Chinnici, *INAF-Palermo*

- **Physics and Physicists of the Twentieth Century in Naples**

An exploration of the Neapolitan scientific tradition of the twentieth century, its schools, leading figures, and national and international networks of collaboration.

Invited speakers: Antonio Coniglio, formerly *University of Naples Federico II* ; Giovanni La Rana, formerly *University of Naples Federico II* ; Luca Lista, *INFN-Naples*

- **The Development of Meteorology and Volcanology**

A session examining the historical evolution of these two disciplines from a historical-scientific perspective, with particular reference to their significance for the development of a culture of risk awareness and environmental protection.

Invited speakers: Lucia Pappalardo, *INGV-Naples* ; Chiara Bertolin, *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

- **History of Physics and Astronomy from the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Century**

Insights into the figures, instruments, observational practices, and theoretical developments that shaped three centuries of the physical and astronomical sciences.

Invited speaker: Pasquale Tucci, formerly *Università di Milano*

- **Dialogue Between History, Education, and Public Outreach in Physics and Astronomy**

A session devoted to the intersections between historical research, science education, and the public communication of science.

- **Museums and Scientific Collections of Physics and Astronomy in Italy and Worldwide**

Contributions on the conservation, enhancement, cataloguing, and educational use of historical collections, with particular attention to best practices in museum studies.

invited speaker: Richard Stenning, *Charles Frodsham & Co.*

Video shooting

All talks will be recorded and made available afterward on the SISFAmedia YouTube channel, unless the contributor explicitly refuses.

Inaugural Session of the Congress and Homage to Giuseppe Piazzi

On 14 September, the Sala dei Baroni at Castel Nuovo (Maschio Angioino) will host a special event of the SISFA Congress to celebrate the bicentennial of Giuseppe Piazzi. City authorities and representatives from the institutions supporting the congress will participate in the ceremony. Prof. Renata De Lorenzo, President of the *Società Napoletana di Storia Patria*, will provide a brief historical overview contextualizing the astronomer Piazzi within the social and political landscape of late 18th and early 19th-century Palermo and Naples. Following the address, the *Ensemble Mercadante* will perform a short concert dedicated to the astronomer of the Two Sicilies. The event will conclude with a petit buffet for all participants.

Special events

During the meeting, several special events are planned, including guided visits to the historical collections of the Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte, the *Museo di Fisica* of the University of Naples Federico II, and the museum of the Vesuvius Observatory. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the temporary exhibition, *L'astronomo delle Due Sicilie*, hosted in the Column Hall of the Capodimonte Observatory.

Registration, abstract submission, conference fees, deadlines

The conference is open to both members and non-members. **Non-members who have never attended a SISFA Congress are kindly asked to submit a short CV to congresso@sisfa.org.**

Registration is mandatory. Non-invited speakers must complete their registration after paying the conference fee. The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks and contributes to covering organizational costs.

Abstracts of oral communications must be submitted in English and will be peer-reviewed by the SISFA Scientific Committee. Detailed instructions and deadlines are provided below.

Grants

Three grants of €350 each, provided as a maximum reimbursement of costs (travel, meals, and accommodation), will be available for young scholars under the age of 35. Applicants must be up to date with their SISFA 2025 membership fee and submit their abstract by the deadline, indicating their interest in the grant during the submission process.

Grant recipients whose abstracts are accepted will be required to publish an article in the SISFA Proceedings and will be exempt from the conference fee.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission new deadline: **15 June 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **12 July 2026**
- Payment of conference fee: **by 27 July 2026**
- Registration deadline: **27 July 2026**

Abstracts (max 250 words, no bibliography) must be submitted via the “Submit new abstract” button on the Congress website. Abstracts and presentations must comply with the [Sisfa guidelines](#).

Indico account

The Congress website uses the Indico event management system. To submit an abstract, an INDICO or IDEM account is required. If you do not have one, please request it by writing to the organizers and specifying “For the SISFA Congress” in the subject line; it will be activated promptly.

Conference fees

Different conference fees apply to SISFA and non-SISFA members. Reductions are available for specific categories of participants (see note *).

CONFERENCE FEES	
SISFA members	
Full Conference fee	€ 125
*Reduced Conference fee	€ 45
Non-SISFA members	
Full Conference fee	€ 200
*Reduced Conference fee	€ 100
*Reduced Conference fees generally apply to the following categories: 1) undergraduate students; 2) current MPhil or PhD students; 3) young scholars under the age of 35; 4) current or retired secondary-school teachers.	

SISFA members must be in good standing for 2026. Membership renewal and payment instructions are available at: www.sisfa.org/i-soci/rinnovo.

Payment system

By bank transfer using the IBAN code and bank details below. Please include: **CONGRESS 2026 + SURNAME** in the payment description (Causale) to ensure proper administrative handling:

SISFA (Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e dell'Astronomia)

Vicolo dell'Osservatorio 5, 35122 Padova

IBAN IT34G0306909606100000119180 BIC BCITITMM

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