

Piazzi 200: new frontiers in astrometry, minor bodies and technologies



Wednesday 30 September 2026 - Friday 2 October 2026

Palazzo Steri, Palermo

Scientific Programme

PIAZZI200: NEW FRONTIERS IN ASTROMETRY, MINOR BODIES, AND TECHNOLOGIES
(Palermo, Palazzo Steri - 30 Sept-2 Oct 2026)
International Conference

PROGRAMME

WED 30 SEPTEMBER

10.30 – Registration
11.30 – Welcome addresses
12.00 – Giuseppe Piazzi: How an obscure mathematician became a famous European astronomer (Ileana Chinnici)

13.00 – Lunch

Session 1 - Astrometry

14.30 – From Ceres to Neptune: Piazzi's observational legacy and the development of nineteenth-century star chart surveys (Klaus Stauber, invited)
15.10 – The frontier of high-precision astrometry in the 21st Century (Alessandro Sozzetti, invited)
16.00 – Oral presentations

16.30 – Coffee break

17.00-18.00 – Oral presentations

THU 1 OCTOBER

Session 2 – Minor bodies I (Asteroids, Dwarf Planets, TNO)
9.30 – PIAZZI: Father of the asteroids (Clifford Cunningham, invited)
10.10 – The leftover: news and views (M. Cristina De Sanctis, invited)

11.00 – Coffee break

11.30 – Oral presentations

13.00 – Lunch

Session 3 – Minor bodies II (Comets, Meteorites, Debris)

14.30 – The Great Comet of 1811 Observed by Giuseppe Piazzi at the Palermo Observatory (Paolo Del Santo, invited)
15.10 – An overview of the properties of the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS (Dominique Bockelée-Morvan, invited)
16.00 – Oral presentations

16.30 – Coffee break

17.00-18.00 – Oral presentations

20.00 – Conference dinner

FRI 2 OCTOBER

Session 4 – New technologies

9.30 – From Tycho to Piazzi: Two Centuries that Revolutionized Astronomical Observations (Giorgio Strano, invited)

10.10 – New Technologies: Outcome or Engine of Scientific Research? (Roberto Ragazzoni, invited)

11.00 – Coffee break

11.30 – Oral presentations

13.00 – Concluding remarks

Public conference:

Museo Storico dei Motori e dei Meccanismi, Università di Palermo (Viale delle Scienze, Edificio 8 Macchine)

18.00 – Title to be defined (Amedeo Balbi)

SAT 3 OCTOBER (OPTIONAL)

Visits to Piazzi's places (Palermo Observatory, Museo della Specola, Cathedral, etc.) / excursions (TBD)