



Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena (INSAP) XIV:

'All Roads Lead to the Sky'

5-11 October 2026

Villa Mondragone, INAF Astronomical Observatory of Rome - Monte Porzio Catone (RM),
Botanical Garden - Rome,
Vatican Library - Vatican City.

We are delighted to announce a call for papers for the **INSAP XIV conference, 'All Roads Lead to the Sky'** in **Rome, Italy** (website: <https://indico.ict.inaf.it/event/3535/>). The conference will bring together scholars, artists and scientists from a variety of disciplines to explore the multifaceted relationships between the sky and its celestial phenomena, and their influence on cultures, history and fields of study. Since its inception, INSAP's purpose has been to encourage dialogue between the Sciences and the Humanities, fostering a holistic understanding of the universe and promoting artistic performances and reflections on the wonders of the night sky and their impact on our lives.

Themes and Topics:

We invite proposals for papers, presentations, performances and posters on a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

- **Astronomy and Cosmology Through the Ages:** How different civilisations have understood and interpreted the cosmos, including the development of astronomical knowledge, cosmological models and their influence on scientific progress.
- **Astro-Architecture and Celestial Symbols:** Studies on ancient and modern iconographies related to the Cosmos and architecture designed with astronomical significance, such as megalithic structures, sacred sites, and observatories aligned with celestial events.
- **Art and the Celestial:** The depiction of celestial bodies and phenomena in visual arts, photography, cinema and music across different historical periods and cultures.
- **Philosophy and the Cosmos:** Philosophical interpretations of the universe.
- **Astronomy and Myth/ Narrating the Sky:** The portrayal of celestial events in myths and legends, and how the skies have inspired narratives, storytelling, and depictions of heavenly phenomena in classical, modern and contemporary literature.

- **History of Science:** The development of astronomical knowledge, key figures, and their contributions to understanding the universe.
- **Space Exploration and Human Imagination**
Discussions on the impact of space exploration on contemporary culture, ethics, and the future of human civilisation, including the role of science fiction and speculative narratives.
- **Environmental and Ethical Implications of Space Exploration**
Consideration of the environmental impact of space missions and the ethical questions surrounding the exploration and exploitation of outer space.

Duration of each oral presentation/performance: anticipated as 20 minutes.

Submission Guidelines (opening 16th March 2026):

We welcome submissions from established scholars, early-career researchers, graduate students, arts practitioners and anyone interested in the sky. Given the variety of sectors involved and the excellence of the planned activities, we warmly invite you to circulate this invitation to participate to all cultural organisations, including art and music academies.

Submissions include:

- Individual Paper: Abstracts of up to 300 words and short bio(s) of the author(s).
- Artistic/Musical Presentations or Performances: A description of the work (up to 300 words) together with details of any technical requirements.

Key Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **31 May 2026**
- Notification of Acceptance: **21 June 2026**

Submission Process:

All submissions should include the following:

1. Title of the presentation.
2. Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s).
3. Contact details.
4. A brief bio (up to 150 words).

Please submit your abstracts and proposals via the Submission Form (since March 16, creating an account on the INDICO Platform):

<https://indico.ict.inaf.it/event/3535/abstracts/>

Conference Publication:

Papers from the conference will be considered for publication in a dedicated volume.