INSAP 2026 Preliminary Programme

Monday, 5 October 2026 — Monte Porzio (MP)
Venue: Villa Mondragone

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
11:00 - 11:30	Opening in Villa Mondragone - Welcome from INAF, INSAP, VatObs, VatLib and SAIt	Institutional Speakers	
11:30 - 12:10	Opening in Villa Mondragone - Opening Lecture	**Trotta Roberto (Keynote Speaker)**	**How the stars made us who we are**
12:10 - 12:20	Session 1: The Heritage of INSAP **(Chair: V. Shrimplin)**	Hatch John	In Memoriam Rolf Sinclair
12:20 - 12:40	Session 1: The Heritage of INSAP	Campion Nick	Inspiration, Awe and Education in Cultural Astronomy
12:40 - 13:00	Session 1: The Heritage of INSAP	Mooney John David	John David Mooney: Art and Astronomy at Castel Gandolfo
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	-	-
14:00 - 14:20	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy **(Chair: N. Campion)**	Popielska Grzybowska Joanna	"This Teti is off to the sky, this Teti is off to the sky, as Shu-the air together with Ra-the sun."/PT spell 259 (T194)/ –all ancient Egyptian roads lead to the sky

14:20 - 14:40	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	Pulla Rao Kudupudi, Chittoori Praveen Raju	Ancient Sky Charts of Telangana, South India
14:40 - 15:00	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	S. Malsawmkimi, Samuel V.L. Thlanga	The Sky Above the Hills: Catasterism in Mizo Cultural Astronomy
15:00 - 15:20	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	De Franceschini Marina	The Celestial Architecture of Emperor Hadrian
15:20 - 15:40	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	Tiede Vance	ARA·PACIS·AVGVSTAE: An Astro-Architectural Analysis
15:40 - 16:00	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	Latura George, Assasi Reza	Mithraic Cosmology and the Ascent of the Soul
16:00 - 16:20	Session 2: Ancient Astronomy	Ulla-Miguel et al.	A study on the astral ornamentation and orientation of Galician Hórreos
16:20 - 16:50	Tea Break	-	-
16:50 - 17:10	Session 3: The Moon is a Harsh Mistress **(Chair: S. Guglielmino)**	Compiani Mario	This is not the Moon. Lunar maps and scientific representations as "felicitous falsehoods"
17:10 - 17:30	Session 3: The Moon is a Harsh Mistress	Macaluso Tiziana	Filippo Zamboni and the "Bacio nella Luna" in the Italian astronomical debate of the late 19th century
17:30 - 17:50	Session 3: The Moon is a Harsh Mistress	Hatch John	In Light of the Moon: Lunar Lessons in Modern Art
17:50-18:10	Poster Session	Latura G. – Ulla-Miguel A. – Roberts E.	-
18:30 - 19:30	**Welcome Cocktail**	**-**	**-**
19:40 - 21:50	**Baroque Concert "Ensemble Arcimboldo" and Astronomical Observations in Giardino Segreto & Teatro d'acque**	-	-

Tuesday, 6 October 2026 — Monte Porzio (MP)

Venue: Villa Mondragone

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
09:10 - 09:30	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History **(Chair: R. Trotta)**	Shrimplin Valerie	The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena in St Albans: a Case Study
09:30 - 09:50	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History	Poss Richard	Astronomical Imagery in English Renaissance Poetry
09:50 - 10:10	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History	Henry Holly	A Physicist and an Astronomer in the Alps: John Tyndall and Sir James Jeans
10:10 - 10:30	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History	Dilanian Karine	Divine inspiration as a vigor motrix of Kepler's Scientific Thought
10:30 - 10:50	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History	Hietala Niklas	Cosmic Dust and a Stone That Is Not a Meteorite
10:50 - 11:10	Session 4: The Allure of the Skies Throughout History	Debroise Philippe	The pendulum, a mechanical model for planetary motion
11:10 - 11:40	Coffee Break	-	-
11:40 - 12:00	Session 5: Music and the Cosmos **(Chair: G. Gandolfi)**	Adamo Angelo	The Titius-Bode Law in Music - How Two Composers "Discovered" Pluto and Ceres
12:00 - 12:20	Session 5: Music and the Cosmos	Kaasa Adam Jovanovic	Communion: Singing with Photons, Glass Plates, and the Will of Light
12:20 - 12:40	Session 5: Music and the Cosmos	Perozzi Ettore, et al.	DE-SIDERA ET DIS-ASTRA - Aratus' Phenomena and the role of metrics in music and poetry for communicating science
12:40 - 13:00	Session 5: Music and the Cosmos	Kuhn Jeffrey, Villa Thomas Emilio	Songs for the Stars: Music, ExoLife Finder, and Cosmic Contact
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	-	-
14:00 - 14:20	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication I **(Chair: F. Aloisio)**	Krupp E.C	Atlas Unchained
14:20 - 14:40	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication I	Serasini Luca	A portrait of Progetto Costellazioni, a land art and interactive contemporary art project about Cosmos
14:40 - 15:00	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication I	Parkin Ione	The sustained gaze - interdisciplinary perspectives, visual arts practice and the curation of "Cosmos: The Art of Observing Space"

15:00 - 15:20	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication I	Mendini Claudia	Lucigrafie* painting with Light - Claudia Mendini
15:20 - 15:40	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication I	Fitzgerald Carrie	Light from the Beginning: Cosmology and Creation in a Cathedral Rose Window
15:40 - 16:10	Tea Break	-	-
16:10 - 16:30	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication II **Chair: E. Nichelli)**	Cheng Qifeng, Wendell Augustus	Galaxy in Hand
16:30 - 16:50	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication II	Kristin Jones	Drawing the Pantheon across time: the Project OCULUS
16:50 - 17:10	Session 6: Art, Astronomy and Communication II	Faccini Marco, Di Carlo Federica	The Modern Star Makers: bridging technological frontiers and cultural imaginaries. Laser Guide Stars and the Art-Science convergence of "Ti guarderò bruciare"
17:10 - 18:40	Guided Tour (subject to a fee)	-	Guided Tour in Villa Mondragone

Wednesday, 7 October 2026 — Monte Porzio (MP)
Venue: INAF-Oss. Astr. Monte Porzio

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
09:10 - 09:20	Welcome from INAF-OAR Director	Ermolli Ilaria	
09:20 - 10:00	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives I - Keynote **(Chair: J. Hatch)**	**De Bernardis Paolo (Keynote Speaker)**	**All at One Point... or Not? Literary Imagination and Modern Cosmology**
10:00 - 10:20	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives I	Gionti Gabriele	Mons. George Lemaitre: The father of the Big-Bang theory
10:20 - 10:40	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives I	Impey Chris	Cosmic Chemistry from the Big Bang to You
10:40 - 11:00	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives I	Meylan Georges	Evidence for the Big Bang
11:00- 11:30	Coffee Break	-	-
11:30 - 12:10	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives II - Keynote **(Chair: G. Gionti)**	**Djorgovski George (Keynote Speaker)**	**The Path to the Constant**
12:10 - 12:30	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives II	Seeskin Kenneth	Realism and Instrumentalism in Historical Perspective

12:30 - 12:50	Session 7: Cosmic Perspectives II	Delgado Eric	Pic du Midi: UNESCO World Heritage Candidate and Outpost to the Universe
12:50 - 13:00	Poster Session	Macke R.; Bardelli S., Ulla Miguel A.	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	-	-
14:00 - 15:30	Guided Tour	-	INAF-Oss. Astr. Monte Porzio
15:30 - 18:30	Excursion with bus	-	Specola Vaticana/Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo
21:00 - 22:30	Lecture in Italian at "Scuderie Aldobrandini" in Frascati	Trotta Roberto	L'importanza di saper guardare all'insù (for the General Public)

Thursday, 8 October 2026 — Rome (RM)
Venue: Orto Botanico di Roma

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
09:10 - 09:50	Session 8: Celestial Art (Middle Ages to Baroque) **(Chair: V. Shrimplin)**	**Barbieri Costanza (Keynote Speaker)**	**Agostino Chigi's Benevolent Stars**
09:50 - 10:10	Session 8: Celestial Art (Middle Ages to Baroque)	Vallese Gloria	Stars and constellations in the 'Labours of the Months' of St. Mark's Basilica in Venice (mid-13th century).
10:10 - 10:30	Session 8: Celestial Art (Middle Ages to Baroque)	Bardeen David	Rubens, Galileo, and the Cosmological Baroque: The Madonna della Vallicella
10:30 - 10:50	Session 8: Celestial Art (Middle Ages to Baroque)	Molaro Paolo	Artemisia & Galileo
10:50 - 11:10	Session 8: Celestial Art (Middle Ages to Baroque)	Gainer Cameron	Caravaggio and Galileo: The Sons of Kronos
11:10 - 11:40	Coffee Break	-	-
11:40 - 12:00	Session 9: Heavens in Modern & Contemporary Art **(Chair: H. Henry)**	Corbelli Edvige	Depictions of a lunar eclipse and the dawn of astrophysics in van Gogh's paintings
12:00 - 12:20	Session 9: Heavens in Modern & Contemporary Art	Poppi Francesco. Bonoli Fabrizio	Seeing the Invisible: Guido Horn d'Arturo, Giorgio Morandi and the Construction of Vision between Astronomy and Painting.
12:20 - 12:40	Session 9: Heavens in Modern & Contemporary Art	Jenner Deborah	Conjuring Cosmic Connections (Anish Kapoor)
12:40 - 13:00	Session 9: Heavens in Modern & Contemporary Art	Tuscano Maria Luisa	The Dynamic Metaphor of Time Depicted in the Hall of King Roger in the

			Norman Palace and in the Hall of Mirrors at Villa Igiea in Palermo
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	-	-
14:00 - 14:40	Session 10: Narratives of the Sky (40 min) **(Chair: A. Adamo)**	**Boitani Piero (Keynote Speaker)**	**Ulysses and Astronomy**
14:40 - 15:00	Session 10: Narratives of the Sky	Calanchi Alessandra	When All Roads Led to Planet Mars: Utopian writing at the fin-de-siècle
15:00 - 15:20	Session 10: Narratives of the Sky	Guglielmino Salvo	Imagining the Cosmos from the Newsstand: Urania and the Popular Construction of Astronomical Imagination in Postwar Italy
15:20 - 15:40	Session 10: Narratives of the Sky	Weston Skye	The Psyche of Space and the Intuition of Otherness: Starlight, Star Maps and the Middle Passage in the Afro-Atlantic Nocturne
15:40 - 16:00	Session 10: Narratives of the Sky	Hockey Thomas	The Varied Roles of Lunar Eclipses in Literature
16:00 - 16:20	Tea Break	-	-
16:20 - 17:40	Session 11: Literary Focus Panel 1 - U. Eco Panel (80 min)	Gandolfi G., Giovanardi S., Fedriga R:, Vigneri, Vallese G.	Literary panel "Eco Celeste"
17:40 - 18:50	Session 12: Literary Focus Panel 2 - Fi-Sci Panel + Mini workshop (70 min)	Trauvitch, Abrahamyan	Fiction-Science panel "Seeing from Outside"
20:00 - 22:30	Social Dinner (need booking, not included in light fee)	-	Retreat Donna Camilla Savelli (Via Garibaldi, 27, 00153 Roma RM)

Friday, 9 October 2026 — Rome (RM)

Venue: Vatican Library

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
09:00 - 13:00	Cultural Visits (subject to a fee)	-	Cosmic Pantheon' & 'Astronomical Secrets of Villa Medici'
13:00 - 14:10	Lunch Break (Meals at own expenses)	-	-
14:10 - 14:20	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts **(Chair: E. Ferg)**	S.E. Mons. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi (Archivista & Bibliotecario di S. Romana Chiesa)	Presentation of the Vatican Library

14:20-14:40	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Paola Manoni	The Digital Services Skyline of the Vatican Apostolic Library
14:40 - 15:00	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Giuffrida Giuliano	Winds of the Heavens
15:00 - 15:20	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Cesario Marilina	Stargazing the End Times: Cosmic Visions and Doomsday Beliefs in Early Medieval England
15:20 - 15:40	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Walsh Ciaràn	Stars of Heaven: Celestial Bodies in Old English Religious Poetry
15:40 - 16:00	Session 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Tenchini Irene	Sensing the Sky: Astronomy, Medicine, and the Body in Early Medieval England
16:00 – 16:20	Sessione 13: Heavenly Manuscripts	Pimpinelli Alberto	Planetary Conjunctions and Prophetic Time in Dante's Commedia
16:20 - 16:40	Tea Break	-	-
16:40 - 17:00	Session 14: Calendars and New Stars **(Chair: G. Giuffrida)**	Proverbio Delio Vania	Computus Chirometralis:The Eternal Struggle Between Sun and Moon in the Palm of the Hand — Substituting Chiromancy with Modular Arithmetic
17:00 - 17:20	Session 14: Calendars and New Stars	Ferg Erica	Rereading the Qur'ān through the Observational Sky: Celestial Order and Experiential Knowledge in Late Antique Arabia
17:20 - 17:40	Session 14: Calendars and New Stars	Cappi Alberto	The Enigma of Hipparchus's "Stella Nova": History, Reception, and New Perspectives of Identification
17:40 - 18:00	Session 14: Calendars and New Stars	Cosci Matteo	Johannes van Heeck's "De Nova Stella" in context

Saturday, 10 October 2026 — Rome (RM)

Venue: INAF Headquarters Monte Mario-Rome

Time	Working session	Speaker	Talk Title
09:30 - 10:30	Special Lectures on the Exhibition	Aristeidis Voulgaris, Thalia Traianou, Giangiacomo Gandolfi	Antikythera Mechanism Exhibition
10:30 - 12:30	INAF Headquarters Monte Mario	HQ Monte Mario	Visit Copernican Museum, Solar Tower and Exhibition
12:30-13:00	INSAP XIV Closing Remarks & Farewell		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	-	-
14:00 - 19:00	Cultural Activity		Free Afternoon / Show at Planetarium of Rome (18:00)

Sunday, 11 October 2026

Time	Social Event	Venue	
08:30-18:30	Full Day Excursion (subject to a fee)	Bassano Romano & Caprarola	Excursion to Villa Giustiniani in Bassano Romano and Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola, outstanding Renaissance villas with astral frescoes and decorations.