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EVENTS



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE



THE EPISTEMIC REVOLUTON: CA. 1610-1680s

A NEW NOTION TO DEFINE DEEP HISTORICAL CHANGE

DOMENICO BERTOLONI MELI • Indiana University Bloomington

**21
OCTOBER
2026**

5.00 PM

CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

The notion of the Scientific Revolution is generally understood as the time from Galileo - or at times Copernicus - to Newton that saw the beginning of "modern science". This notion has been hotly debated: there is disagreement as to how best to characterize it, when it occurred, and even whether there was a Scientific Revolution. Several historians have recently argued that it should be jettisoned or proposed alternative characterizations. This talk proposes a

new notion with which historians may feel more comfortable: the *Epistemic Revolution*. The *Epistemic Revolution* is defined not in relation to modern science, which differs widely from that of the mid-20th century and is changing in front of our eyes, but "locally", in terms of what preceded and followed it. Two defining characters of the *Epistemic Revolution* are those of mechanism and new instruments, such as the telescope, the

microscope, the barometer, the thermometer, and the air pump. Lastly, the timeframe, from c. 1610 to the 1680s, is shorter than usual and excludes Newton's mature work, such as *Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica* (1687), which is not seen as the telos of the *Epistemic Revolution* but as a key text of the investigations of nature in the Enlightenment.

The event is free to attend but registration is required. Info at csnbr.fondazionecomel.org