



# 39<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy

**Pisa, September 9-12, 2019**  
**First Announcement**

The 39<sup>th</sup> yearly Congress of the *Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy* (SISFA) will take place in Pisa on September 9-12, 2019. The main venue will be at the *Enrico Fermi* Physics Department of the University of Pisa. A thematic session on the History of General Relativity will take place in Cascina, at the European Gravitational Observatory, where the *Virgo* experiment is located. Shuttle transportation from Pisa to Cascina will be on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee.

## General Information and Scientific Programme

**Organizer:** SISFA (Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e dell'Astronomia).

**Advisory Committee:** Salvatore Esposito (INFN Napoli); Lucio Fregonese (Università degli studi di Pavia); Mauro Gargano (Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte, Napoli); Marco Grassi (Direttore INFN Pisa); Stavros Katsanevas (Director European Gravitational Observatory, Cascina); Roberto Lalli (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin); Adele La Rana (Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche *Enrico Fermi*, Roma); Roberto Mantovani (Università degli studi di Urbino *Carlo Bo*); Marisa Michelini (Università degli studi di Udine); Angelo Pagano (INFN Catania); Paolo Rossi (Università di Pisa); Ettore Vicari (Direttore Dipartimento di Fisica di Pisa).

**Local Partners:** Università di Pisa, Centro Dipartimentale *Bruno Pontecorvo*; Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Fisica *Enrico Fermi*; Istituto Nazionale Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Pisa; Fondazione Galileo Galilei, Pisa; Museo degli Strumenti di Fisica, Pisa; European Gravitational Observatory, Cascina.

**Local Organizing Committee:** Carlo Bemporad (Università di Pisa); Rino Castaldi (INFN Pisa); Vincenzo Cavasinni (Università di Pisa); Sergio Giudici (Università di Pisa); Giuseppe Grosso (Università di Pisa); Adele La Rana (Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro Studi e Ricerche *Enrico Fermi*, Roma); Claudio Luperini (Università di Pisa); Marco Massai (Docente esterno del Dipartimento di Fisica di Pisa); Paolo Rossi (Università di Pisa); Gloria Spandre (INFN Pisa); Giuseppe Terreni (INFN Pisa).

**Congress official web page:** <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/pisa-2019>.

**Congress official email address:** [convegno2019@sisfa.org](mailto:convegno2019@sisfa.org).

**The Congress:** The Meeting is one of a well-established series that SISFA has been organizing on a yearly basis since its foundation. It aims at promoting the research activities in the history of physics and astronomy in Italy, carried out not only by academic historians but also by independent scholars and school teachers willing to explore the role of the history of physics and astronomy in present-day teaching of the disciplines. At the same time, the Meeting provides an opportunity to strengthen the collaborations and establish new links among the members of SISFA and the members of other scholarly societies, as well as researchers working in the same and in related fields.

Historians of physics and astronomy are then invited to participate and the invitation is extended to all the scholars and researchers sharing the same kind of interests.

The Meeting will host both invited talks and oral communications. More detailed information and updating will soon appear on the Meeting website <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/pisa-2019>.

- The *Premio di Laurea SISFA 2019* for the Best Master Thesis in History of Physics and/or History of Astronomy will be awarded during the SISFA 2019 Congress.

**Topics:** Proposals for oral communications should mainly address the history of physics and astronomy, also in connection with the related areas of mathematics, chemistry and the history of science and culture. Studies focusing on historical instruments and documentary sources regarding the mentioned fields are also relevant to the purposes of the Congress, as well as the applications of the history of physics and astronomy in science education and in museum displays.

**Topical sessions:** The year 2019 is dense of anniversaries, among which the bicentenary of Riccardo Felici (1819-1902), the centenary of 1919 measurement of the deflection of light, the five hundred years since the death of Leonardo da Vinci, the fiftieth anniversary since the first moon landing. Specific topical sessions will consider these important figures and events on the basis of recent scholarly research in the history of physics and astronomy. Special thematic sessions will be devoted to: 1) the history of General Relativity, focusing in particular on the experimental tests of Albert Einstein's theory; 2) the connections between science education and the history of physics and astronomy; 3) the history of physics in Venezuela.

**Outline of the Congress:** The Congress will host invited talks and communications. The official languages are Italian and English.

**Video shooting:** The talks will be broadcast live streaming. The presentations will be filmed and the related videos will be available on a dedicated channel of YouTube (unless explicit refusal by the contributor).

**Venue and Places:** The Meeting will be held at the *Enrico Fermi* Physics Department of the University of Pisa, which hosts the Departmental Center *Bruno Pontecorvo* (<http://centropontecorvo.df.unipi.it>). The thematic session devoted to the experimental tests of the theory of General Relativity will take place in Cascina, at the European Gravitational Observatory,

where the gravitational wave interferometric detector *Virgo* is located (at about 20 km from the Pisa city center).

Pisa is a historical city of Tuscany located at about 12 km from the sea (<https://www.italyguides.it/en/tuscany/pisa>) and 85 km from Florence. The Galilei International Airport is located at 1 km from the central station of Pisa, which can be easily reached by public transportation, in particular using the automated *People Mover* train.

Details about transportation and accommodation will be provided on the Congress website. Several parallel events in conjunction with the gathering will give the participants the opportunity to get acquainted with the scientific and historical heritage of Pisa and surroundings.

**Travel information and hotel reservation:** Special reservations can be made for the participants in selected hotels in Pisa within about 1 km from the meeting venue. Shuttle transportation will be provided to all participants on behalf of the organizers to the *Virgo* site in Cascina, where special sessions and cultural excursions will take place. More travel information will be provided in a further bulletin and on the web page of the Congress <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/pisa-2019>.

**Special events:** During the meeting some special events are planned, as the excursion to the Pisa Museum of Scientific Instruments, where an exhibition specially set up on the occasion of the congress will be displayed, and to the Monumental Cemetery, where the painting *Il trionfo della morte* of Buonamico Buffalmacco (1262-1340) is visible after its recent restoration. Also a scientific visit to the site of the *Virgo* experiment and of the European Gravitational Observatory is foreseen. More details (fee amount, etc.) will appear on the meeting website.

**Registration, abstract submission, conference fees, deadlines:** Registration and payment of the conference fee are mandatory for all congress participants, both presenting oral communications or attending only.

Abstracts of oral communications should be submitted preferably in English. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed on behalf of the SISFA advisory committee.

Please see below for more details regarding registration, abstract submission, conference fees, deadlines.

a) **Registration** (deadline June 16, 2019): please fill in the blanks as appropriate in the *Congress registration* area on the Congress web page: <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/pisa-2019>.

b) **Presentation of oral communications** should comply with the procedures indicated in <http://www.sisfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Norme-comunicazioni-e-pubblicazione-Congressi-SISFA.pdf>

c) **Abstract format:** Abstracts must provide 1) Title of the contribution, 2) Name(s) of the contributor(s), 3) a brief Summary with essential bibliography of the proposed contribution (MAX. 2000 characters, including bibliography and spaces).

The abstract should be produced as a digital file Word 97-2003 (\*.doc file), named after the surname(s) of the contributor(s).

d) **Abstract submission** (deadline June 16, 2019): the Word file containing the abstract and bibliography should be uploaded using the upload button in the area *Abstract submission* on

the Congress web page: <http://www.sisfa.org/convegni/pisa-2019>. The confirmation of the acceptance of the talk will be given within June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**e) Payment of conference fee (deadline July 15, 2019):** applying to the specific situation (see below).

**Amount of conference fees:** different conference fees apply to 1) SISFA and 2) non SISFA members. Reductions do also apply (see note\*) for special categories of participants:

SISFA members should also ensure that their 2019 membership fee has been paid. If not already done, please do (payment system and membership fees under *Iscrizione e Contatti* on our website).

CONFERENCE FEES	
<b>SISFA members</b>	
Full Conference fee	<b>€ 120</b>
*Reduced Conference fee	<b>€ 60</b>
<b>Non SISFA members</b>	
Full Conference fee	<b>€ 180</b>
*Reduced Conference fee	<b>€ 95</b>
* <b>Reduced Conference fees</b> apply in general to the following categories: 1) Undergraduate students; 2) current MPhil or PhD students without scholarship or salary; 3) MPhil or PhD students, degree obtained 2014-2018; 4) current Secondary-school teachers.	

**Payment system:** By bank transfer using the IBAN code and bank details below. Please, remember to write 2019+SURNAME in the comments field (*Causale*) to allow us proper administrative handling:

SISFA (Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e della Astronomia)  
Via Giulio Cesare 7  
80125 Napoli

IBAN IT78 K033 5901 6001 0000 0119 180  
BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMXXXX  
Banca Prossima S.P.A. - Filiale Di Milano - Piazza Paolo Ferrari 10

The Conference fee includes: conference kit, conference booklet, coffee breaks. The Conference proceedings will be published online.

We look forward to meeting you in Pisa.  
*The Local Organizing Committee*