

Press Release
January 25, 2017

MPIWG Historian Pietro Daniel Omodeo Awarded ERC Consolidator Grant

Pietro Daniel Omodeo (Research Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, MPIWG) has been awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant 2016 for the project “Institutions and Metaphysics of Cosmology in the Epistemic Networks of Seventeenth-Century Europe.”

Are political antagonism, ideological struggles, and religious tensions a hindrance or the fuel of scientific development? Does the rise of modern science in Europe relate to the sunset of Medieval universalism and subsequent political-religious fragmentation? How did the modern construction of identities along confessional, linguistic and political lines affect the sciences and our overall vision of the world?

This research endeavor “*Institutions and Metaphysics of Cosmology in the Epistemic Networks of Seventeenth-Century Europe*”—to be launched in the second half of 2017—is a comparative inquiry of early-modern Protestant and Catholic cosmologies in their institutional, political, and ideological settings. The challenging originality of the project rests on its overarching scope (thematic, geographical, and geopolitical) and methodology—the application of a political-epistemological perspective on the history of science informed by Gramscian views on society, culture, and politics.

The project will be supported by the ERC with two million Euros over a period of five years.

Omodeo received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Turin, Italy (2008), has been a Research Scholar at the MPIWG since 2010 and is conducting his present research in the framework of the Collaborative Research Centre *Episteme in Bewegung* (Freie Universität, Berlin). He has established himself as an expert in modern scientific culture, institutional history of science, and political epistemology.

Among his recent and coming publications:

- *Duncan Liddel (1561 – 1613): Networks of Polymathy and the Northern European Renaissance*, ed. with Karin Friedrich (2016);
- *Cultural Hegemony in a Scientific World: Gramscian Concepts for the History of Science*, ed. with Massimiliano Badino (2017) (in press).

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