



NDXI

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP

University of Notre Dame

Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum

www.nd.edu/~histast/



ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFERENCE

The Eleventh Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop will be held at the University of Notre Dame, **June 12–16, 2013**. This year's invited speaker, F. Jamil Ragep, is Canada Research Chair in the History of Science in Islamic Societies and Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The conference will include a one-day trip to the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum. The conference typically attracts about 50 to 60 historians of astronomy and graduate students.

CONFERENCE THEME: Diffusion of Astronomical Knowledge across and within Cultures

It is a well recognized phenomenon that astronomical ideas, theories, and data have historically crossed cultural and disciplinary boundaries. For the Eleventh Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop, we invite submissions that explore the theme of diffusion of astronomical knowledge. We understand "diffusion" to be a broad category: How did astronomical theories pass from one culture to another? What ideas expressed in one language or worldview were modified when passing into another system? How do subcultures within a single broader culture, such as professional and amateur within the same geographical region, interact? How do new discoveries make their way through a scientific community, and how do they eventually get rejected or accepted? How does knowledge pass from specialists to the broader popular culture? How do instruments play a role in transferring and shaping knowledge, especially as they pass between cultures? As in previous years, we expect that the theme can encompass a number of different time periods and geographical locations. Proposals that directly address the theme will receive preferential treatment.

PROPOSALS/CALL FOR PAPERS

We will accept proposals for both papers and sessions. Single papers will be 15–20 minutes in length, depending upon the number of submissions. Organized sessions, with multiple papers addressing a particular question or theme, can contain papers of longer length, but must incorporate significant time for discussion; sessions typically run 1.5 to 2 hours and will have 3 to 5 presenters. Proposals for papers should include a title and a one-paragraph abstract. Session proposals should identify presenters who have agreed to come as well as titles and one-paragraph abstracts for each presenter. Nontraditional sessions, such as hands-on teaching

sessions, are acceptable. Proposals, including a one-page CV for all presenters, should be sent to Stephen Case at scase1@nd.edu and are due by March 1, 2013. All submissions will be shared with the organizing committee: Marv Bolt, Stephen Case, Matt Dowd, Robert Goulding, and Jacqueline Feke.

REGISTRATION AND HOUSING INFORMATION

Registration and housing arrangements will be similar this year to prior years. Registration will go live early in 2013; links will be posted on the conference web page. Registration includes bus transport to and from, and two meals at the Adler on Friday, June 14, and the banquet on Saturday, June 15, in addition to light refreshments throughout the workshop. Housing will be in one of Notre Dame's dorms; single and double rooms will be available. Housing for married couples is available, and additional Chicago trip and banquet tickets can be purchased from a single registration.

RAGEP BIO

F. Jamil Ragep is Canada Research Chair in the History of Science in Islamic Societies and Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Born in West Virginia (USA), he attended the University of Michigan, where he received degrees in Anthropology and Near Eastern Studies, and later took a Ph.D. in the History of Science at Harvard University. He has written extensively on the history of science in Islam and has co-edited books on the transmission of science between cultures and on water resources in the Middle East. Thanks to a major grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Quebec government, Ragep is leading an international effort to catalogue all Islamic manuscripts in the exact sciences and provide a means to access information online on the intellectual, institutional, and scientific contexts of these texts. In association with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, he is co-directing a project to study the fifteenth-century background to the Copernican revolution and in particular its Islamic sources. Married with two grown children, he collaborates with his partner Sally Ragep on these and other research projects.