NDXVI

16th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop

June 11-14, 2025

at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and Adler Planetarium

The Sixteenth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop will be held June 11–14, 2025, in-person at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, with a planned one-day trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. This CFP and further details on the workshop are available at http://www.nd.edu/~histast.

Workshop Theme: Visual Practices in the Production and Transmission of Astronomical Knowledge
Visual practices are deeply intertwined with the production and transmission of astronomical knowledge. Visual features of texts and other materials take multiple forms, such as systems of numerical notation, hand-drawn geometric figures and illustrations, printed tables and charts of data, schematics of tools and instruments, high-resolution photographs and video, dynamic computer simulations, and even augmented-reality. Such material is often associated with the transmission of knowledge, but just as important was the epistemic role of visual reasoning and representations as historical actors collected information, raised questions, and developed theories to understand and explain astronomical phenomena. How were texts, images, and tables co-produced, and how did they interact to produce and transmit knowledge? What aspects of the visual layout and structure of a document were contingent upon the medium in which it was produced, or derived from the techniques and tools used to create it? What aims or functions were assigned to diagrams and other images, and what mental and material mechanisms allowed them to fulfill these purposes? How have visual elements translated into non-visual communities or technologies? How did certain visual practices or representations transform over time, and what was their relationship with changing practices of observation, experimentation, teaching, or computing? We welcome explorations of this theme and related topics within and across different time periods, geographic regions, and cultural contexts.

Call for Proposals
We will accept proposals for both single talks/papers and sessions. All proposals should be submitted by February 1, 2025, to https://bit.ly/ndxvi-submit. Individual presentations are usually 15–20 minutes in length, depending upon the number of submissions. Organized sessions, with multiple talks addressing a particular question or topic, can contain talks of longer length, but must incorporate significant time for discussion. Other formats, including posters for display and discussion, may also be proposed. Proposal submissions for single papers should include a title and a one-paragraph abstract. Organized session submissions should include a thematic session title and session abstract, along with the session organizer's info and a list of other committed speakers, and be prepared to provide individual talk titles and abstracts within the session as follow-up. Proposals are welcome from a range of disciplinary backgrounds and education/career stages, especially graduate students and recent PhDs. Proposals that directly address the workshop theme will receive preferential treatment. After submission review by the organizing committee, final decisions on acceptance will be announced around March 1. All presenters will be expected to register for the workshop and pay the registration fee. Questions regarding the workshop may be addressed to Sarah J. Reynolds at reynoldssj@uindy.edu or local organizer Matthew Dowd at mdowd1@nd.edu.

Keynote Speaker
Our keynote speaker Matteo Valleriani is Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Honorary Professor at the Technische Universität Berlin, Professor by Special Appointment at Tel Aviv University, and Principal Investigator at the Berlin Institute for the Foundations of Learning and Data (BIFOLD). In his research, he investigates processes of emergence, transformation, circulation, homogenization, and oblivion of scientific knowledge in relation to its practical, social, and institutional dimensions. His current research (sphaera.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) takes place in the framework of computational history, with a further focus on the epistemic function of visual material in scientific research. Within this context he co-develops and applies machine learning technologies. His major publications include *Publishing Sacrobosco's «De sphaera» in Early Modern Europe: Modes of Material and Scientific Exchange*, with A. Ottone, (Springer Nature, 2022), *De sphaera of Johannes de Sacrobosco in the Early Modern Period: The Authors of the Commentaries* (Springer Nature, 2020), *The Structures of Practical Knowledge* (Springer Nature, 2017), *Metallurgy, Ballistics and Epistemic Instruments: The "Nova Scientia" of Nicolò Tartaglia, A New Edition* (Edition Open Access, 2013), and *Galileo Engineer* (Springer, 2010).