

## Paolo Rossi Monti †

**Emeritus Professor at the University of Florence; Fellow of the Accademia dei Lincei**

### **2009 Balzan Prize for the History of Science**

*For his major contributions to the study of the intellectual foundations of science from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment.*

### **Institution Administering Research Funds:**

Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento, Florence

**Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee:** M.E.H. Nicolette Mout

### **Cosmology and Physics, Memory and Emotions: Research on the History of Science**

Paolo Rossi Monti set aside half of the Balzan Prize for research that involved seven outstanding young scholars. Paolo Rossi Monti personally followed their research in detail.

Professor Paolo Rossi Monti was supported by Professor Michele Ciliberto, corresponding member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and regular Professor of Modern Philosophy at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, to follow the research on Cosmology and Physics, while Professor Bernardino Fantini, Director of the Institut d'Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé at the Université de Genève, followed the research on the subject of Memory and Emotions. It is anticipated that a conference will be held at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to present the findings and the conclusions of the projects.

The subject *Cosmology and Physics in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* was investigated in detail with the following pre-established themes:

- Cosmology and Medicine in the High and Late Renaissance: Olivia Catanorchi studied the interrelations between Astronomy, Cosmology and Medicine, and dedi-

cated special attention to the work of Cornelio Gemma, who was known by Campanella and Kepler.

- Aspects of Aristotelian Physics in the Paduan Lessons of Pietro Pomponazzi: Francesca Dell'Omodarme studied Pomponazzi's comments and observations on the argumentation on Physics and Cosmology in Aristotle's works.
- On the Mathematical Foundation of Giordano Bruno's Natural Atomism: Marco Matteoli translated the *Articuli centum et sexaginta adversus mathematicos et philosophos* for the first time into Italian (including an extensive introduction and analytical commentary), starting with his in-depth study on Bruno's writings dedicated to Mathematics and Geometry.
- Science, Philosophy and Politics in the Venice of Paolo Sarpi: Chiara Petrolini studied the intense intellectual exchange between Venice and England at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and in particular, the physiognomy of the so-called Sarpi circle. This theme of research is related to the cultural background of *De la Pirotechnia* by Vannuccio Biringuccio.
- The Moon in *Fabula, Istoria* and *Utopia*: Natacha Fabbri identified the main sources (pre-Galileo) defining the Moon as another Earth (Proclus, Macrobius, Simplicius, Plutarch) and delineated the ways it was articulated by Bruno, Patrizi, Kepler and Wilkins.

Concerning the subject *Memory and Emotions*, the following research projects dealt with the following pre-established themes:

- Arts of Memory in the Age of the Neurosciences: Matteo Borri followed an investigation on the historical developments of experimental research and on the theoretical contributions to the theme of memory and neurobiology, as well as techniques for increasing mnemonic power and maintaining mnemonic functions in the presence of pathologies, thus highlighting the connections between these techniques and the *artes reminiscendi* that enjoyed widespread popularity in Europe between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries.
- Psychiatry, Anthropology and Scientific Psychology from Descartes to the French Enlightenment: Textual Heritage and Theoretical Influx on Freud's Theory of Emotions: Yamina Oudai Celso investigated the background to Freud's Theory of Emotions.

**Researchers:**

Supervisors:

Professor Michele Ciliberto  
Professor Bernardino Fantini

Research fellowships:

Matteo Borri  
Olivia Catanorchi  
Francesca Dell'Omodarme  
Natacha Fabbri  
Marco Matteoli  
Yamina Oudai Celso  
Chiara Petrolini**Academic Gatherings:**

Matteo Borri

2013

Second Seminar International, Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory, USI-Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano 18-19 October.

- "Cerletti, Perusini e la psichiatria italiana". Presentation of book by Andrea Ottanelli, Le Ville Sbertoli. Da Casa di Salute a Ospedale Neuropsichiatrico Provinciale, Pistoia, Sala Sinodale dell'Antico Palazzo dei Vescovi, 28 June.
- "La storia dell'Alzheimer per interpretare la complessità della malattia". Summer School, Alzheimer: medicina, filosofia, letteratura, Nettuno, 21 June.
- "Paolo Rossi. La scienza ieri e oggi". Florence, Biblioteca delle Oblate, 19 March.

2012

- "Dalle arti della memoria alle neuroscienze". Rome, Balzan Research Projects Presentations, Accademia dei Lincei, 15 November.
- "Relevance, Facts and Memory". Discussion with Carlo Ginzburg, first InterLa+B, Rome, Accademia dei Lincei, 12 November.
- "Storia della malattia di Alzheimer", with Marco Trabucchi and Alessandro Pagnini, Genoa, Festival della Scienza, 1 November.
- Lectio Magistralis, "Storia della malattia di Alzheimer", Trieste, *Riprendiamoci l'Alzheimer: il futuro della gestione delle demenze: ruolo e impegno degli specialisti italiani*. Novartis Unrestricted Grant, Trieste, 18-20 June.
- "La démence d'Alzheimer: colloque avec Frédéric Assal". Geneva, Laboratoire de neuro/sciences humaines. Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, 25 May.

- “Alzheimer: Da Auguste D. al neuroimaging funzionale”. Università di Urbino, 25 May.
- “Leggere per non dimenticare”. Florence, Biblioteca delle Oblate, 4 May.
- “Le neuroscienze”. Caldogno Villa di Scienza e di Pensiero, Caldogno (Vc), 24 April.

2010

- “Dal fronte al laboratorio: gli studi di Alois Alzheimer sui traumi della Guerra”, *Florence Nightingale a cento anni dalla sua scomparsa*. Comitato Regionale della Croce Rossa Italiana, Florence, 9-11 October.
- “Arti della memoria nell’era delle neuroscienze”. Presentation of the *Balzan Research Projects – An Overview*, second edition 2010, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, 18 November.

Natacha Fabbri

- Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Venice, 8-10 April 2010). Session *Techne* organized by UCLA and by the Getty Institute. Title of lecture: “Harmonic instruments and *machinae mundi*”.
- Lecture at the University of Bergamo (17 June 2010). “Kepler: l’armonia della fisica celeste”.
- Presentation of the *Balzan Research Projects – An Overview* 2010, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome (18 November 2010). Talk: “L’altra Terra: la Luna tra fabula, istoria e utopia”.
- International conference celebrating Telesio (Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours, 25 November 2010). Title of lecture: “*Moderatio* des contraires et harmonie selon Telesio”.
- International conference *Sing aloud harmonious spheres: Music, Philosophy and the Order of the Universe in the Renaissance* (Warwick and Oxford University, 12-15 May 2011). Title of lecture: “Mersenne’s Harmonious Universe between Theology and Natural Philosophy”.
- First InterLa+b meeting in Rome (Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, 12-13 November 2012). Session *Experiments* (Junior discussant).
- Presentation of the *Balzan Research Projects – An Overview* 2012 volume, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome (15 November 2012). Talk: “Plutarco e Galileo”.
- International conference *La science et son fondement: les dix premières années de la philosophie cartésienne, 1619-1628* (Université Paris Sorbonne, 23-24 November 2012). Title of lecture: “*Ordo et mensura* dans le *Compendium Musica*. A l’origine des *Regulae*”.

- International conference *Early Modern Philosophers and the Renaissance Legacy* (Center for Advanced Studies, Munich, 19-20 September 2013). Title of paper: “The Rise of an Earth-like Moon in the Renaissance and Its Importance in Kepler and Galileo’s Heliocentrism”.
- International conference *Scientiae 2014* (University of Vienna, 23-25 April 2014). Session on *Astronomy and Cosmology in Early Modern Europe*. Title of paper: “Looking at an Earth-like Moon and Living on a Moon-like Earth in Renaissance and Early Modern Thought”.

Yamina Oudai Celso

- Conference talk “Nietzsche ‘First Psychologist’ between Positivist Science and Dynamic Psychiatry” at international congress *Nietzsches Wissenschaftsphilosophie – Nietzsche’s Philosophy of Science*. Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, 18-21 July 2010.
- Conference paper “Elektra” l’hystérique: de la Grèce archaïque à la Vienne de Freud (cours-séminaire public *Les émotions normales et pathologiques dans l’histoire de la médecine et de la musique* coordinated by Brenno Boccadoro and Bernardino Fantin. Institut d’Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé, Université de Genève, 6 December 2010).
- Conference talk “Freud e la biologia delle emozioni” at SISSA Conference *Cervello, emozioni, morale*. Trieste, 8 March 2011.
- Conference talk “Mantegazza versus Freud: affinità elettive e corrispondenze testuali per una psicofisiologia dell’eros” at the *Giornata di Studio su Paolo Mantegazza*. ISITA (Istituto Italiano di Antropologia), Rome, Senato della Repubblica, Palazzo Giustiniani, Sala Zuccari, 11 March 2011.
- Workshop talk “Freud et la biologie des émotions”. *Journal Club*, l’Institut d’Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé de l’Université de Genève, 6 April 2011.
- Conference talk “Freud e la filosofia antica”. SFI (Società Filosofica Italiana) course of lectures, Francavilla al Mare, 28 April 2011.
- Conference talk “Nietzsche ‘first psychologist’ and the Genealogy of *Ressentiment*”, international congress *On Resentment. An Interdisciplinary Workshop on the History of Emotions*. Geneva, 26-28 October 2011.
- Conference talk “L’interpretazione dei sogni (1900) di Sigmund Freud”, in lecture series *Canone. Libri da leggere (possibilmente)*. Museo Archeologico Oliveriano, Pesaro, 6 May 2012.

### **Publications:**

- Borri, M. *Storia della malattia di Alzheimer*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2012.
- Borri, M., ed. *Paolo Rossi. La scienza ieri e oggi*. Parma: MUP Editore, 2012.
- Borri, M. “Un altro Paolo Rossi”, in Borri M., ed. *Paolo Rossi. La scienza ieri e oggi*, 10-13. Parma: MUP Editore, 2012.
- Borri, M. “Persi nel labirinto”. *Newton* 28 (Ottobre 2012): 30-36.
- Borri, M. “Alzheimer. La storia del male che mangia i ricordi”. *Corriere del Ticino* (31-1-2012).
- Borri, M. “Dal laboratorio al fronte: gli studi di Alois Alzheimer sui traumi della guerra”, in *Florence Nightingale a cento anni dalla sua scomparsa (1910-2010)*, 41-45. Quaderni “Henry Dunant” no. 10. Florence: Edizioni Tassinari, 2011.
- Borri, M. “Il sapere scientifico tra storia delle idee e storia della scienza”. Study material for the online training platform *Piano di diffusione delle lim - scuola secondaria di secondo grado*, Ministero della pubblica Istruzione, 2010.
- Catanorchi, O. with Cinzia Tozzini. “L’astrologia al tempo della riforma”, in Germana Ernst and Guido Giglioni, eds. *Il linguaggio dei cieli. Astri e simboli nel Rinascimento*, 109-124. Roma: Carocci, 2012.
- Dell’Omodarme, F. “Ficin traducteur de Psellus”, in C. Le Blanc, L. Simonutti, eds., *Le masque de l’écriture. Philosophie et traduction de la Renaissance aux Lumières*, 73-93. Geneva: Droz 2013.
- Dell’Omodarme, F. *Giordano Bruno. Parole, concetti, immagini*. 2 vols. Pisa: Edizioni della Normale, 2014. Also including the following entries to the *Enciclopedia Giordano Bruno. Parole immagini concetti*: Aristarco, astrologia, Cecco d’Ascoli, demone, Ermete Trismegisto, Paracelso, Plinio Secondo Gaio, Bérigard, Guillermet, Fontenelle, Descartes, von Guericke, Iordanus Brunus redivivus, Harriot, Heunisch, Hevelius, Huet, Huygens, Mersenne, Ravensberg, Roeslin and Wilkins.
- Fabbi, N. “The Moon as another Earth: what Galileo owes to Plutarch”. *Galilaean* IX (2012):103-135.
- Fabbi, N. “La conservation de l’univers selon Telesio: *Moderatio* des contraires et lutte permanente”, in G. Giglioni and J. Kraye, eds., *Sense, Affect and Self-preservation*. London: Warburg Institute (forthcoming).
- Fabbi, N. “Looking at an Earth-like Moon and Living on a Moon-like Earth in Renaissance and Early Modern Thought”, in Gianni E. Paganini and Cecilia Muratori, eds., *Early Modern Philosophers and the Renaissance Legacy* (forthcoming).
- Fabbi, N. *Un altro mondo. La Luna tra fabula, istoria e utopia* (in preparation).

- Matteoli, M. "Materia, minimo e misura: la genesi dell'atomismo 'geometrico' in Giordano Bruno". *Rinascimento*, L (2010): 425-449.
- Matteoli, M. "Giordano Bruno e la geometria dell'infinita material", in Gian Mario Bravo and Vincenzo Ferrone, eds., *Il processo a Galileo Galilei e la questione galileiana*, 137-158. Rome, 2010.
- Matteoli, M. "Geometrie della memoria", in Ornella Pompeo Faracovi, *Aspetti della geometria nell'opera di Giordano Bruno*, 129-170. Lugano: Agora & Co., 2012.
- Matteoli, M. "Dal macro al microcosmo: materia, spazio ed atomi in Giordano Bruno". *Atti del Convegno Il concetto di 'potenza' nella cultura moderna*. Florence, 15-17 December 2011 (forthcoming).
- Matteoli, M. has also written the following entries to the *Enciclopedia Giordano Bruno. Parole immagini concetti*: atomo, continuo, dimensione, Euclide, geometria, limite, linea, matematica, mathesis, minimo, misura, mole, Pitagora, punto and termine; as well as the mathematical terms: *Ars deformationum*, *De mordentii circino*, *De somnii interpretatione*, *De triplici minimo et mensura*, *Idiota triumphans*, *Mordentius* and *Praelectiones geometricae*.
- Oudai Celso, Y. "Istinti, pulsioni e cariche affettive: l'approccio freudiano all'emotività". *L'Arco di Giano. Rivista di Medical Humanities* 63 (Spring 2010): 83-101.
- Oudai Celso, Y. "Mantegazza versus Freud: affinità elettive e corrispondenze testuali per una psicofisiologia dell'eros". *Medicina & Storia*, X, 2010, 19-20, n.s.: 165-186.
- Oudai Celso, Y. "Nietzsche 'first psychologist' and genealogist of Ressentiment", in B. Fantini, D. M. Moruno and J. Moscoso, eds. *On Resentment*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013.
- Oudai Celso, Y. "Dall'Unbewusst alla Implicit Memory: Kandel rilegge l'inconscio freudiano". *Sistemi intelligenti XXV* (2013): 523-536.
- Petrolini, C. "Paolo Sarpi e la disputa anglicana sul giuramento di fedeltà", in *The Seventeenth Century* (forthcoming).

Another article is in preparation for the *Rivista di storia del cristianesimo*.