

FME International Seminar on Early Modern Thought

**Disseminating Knowledge in the Seventeenth Century:
Centres and Peripheries in the Republic of Letters**

30th of July– 4th of August 2006

Bran, Romania

THE FME SEMINAR

The FME in modern philosophy is an international meeting of scholars interested in various aspects of early modern thought, organized by the Research Centre for the Foundations of Modern Thought of the University of Bucharest. Past editions have been held in various locations of Romania, and the seminar has become already a tradition. The aim of the seminar is to create an interesting environment for discussing papers and ideas. It includes workshops in the morning and presentations of papers in the afternoon, trying to maintain a balance between a high academic level and the informal spirit of an academia.

THIS YEAR SEMINARS:

I. THE BACONIAN IDEAL AND ITS READERS (Daniel Garber, Dana Jalobeanu)

Texts: Bacon, *New Atlantis*; Sprat, *The History of the Royal Society* (excerpts); Sorbière, *Histoire d'un voyage en Angleterre* (excerpts)

II. THE PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUATION IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (Vlad Alexandrescu, Peter Anstey, Roger Ariew, Sorana Corneanu, Daniel Garber, Dana Jalobeanu, Lucian Petrescu)

1) **DESCARTES:** *Letter to Mesland*, 9 Feb. 1645 (AT IV 162–70/GB 1960ff): [French](#), [English](#); *Principles of Philosophy*, II, 25: [Latin & French](#).

2) **SPINOZA:** *Ethics* II, physical treatise following E2P13; E2P39S. [Latin](#), [English](#), [French](#).

3) **LOCKE:** *Essay* II.27. [English](#), [French](#).

4) **LEIBNIZ:** *On Transsubstantiation*: English; *A New System of the Nature and Communication of Substances, and of the Union of the Soul and Body* : [French](#), [English](#).

[Download all the texts.](#)

PROGRAMME

Saturday, July 29th – Arrival of the participants.

Sunday, July 30th

10.30 –12.30 Opening ceremony and panel discussion at the New Europe College, Bucharest:

Disseminating Knowledge in the Republic of Letters: The Baconian Ideal and its Readers

Proponents: Daniel Garber, Dana Jalobeanu

The discussion, starting from Bacon's *New Atlantis*, together with excerpts from Sprat's *History of the Royal Society* and Joseph Glanvill's *Plus Ultra*, is centered upon the following questions :

1. What is the vision of collective science in the seventeenth century?
2. What are the problems concerning the communication of knowledge?
3. How close was the vision to what actually arose in the Royal Society, in response to that vision?
4. In the end, did collective science fulfill its promise in the seventeenth century? How important was it really for the advances in science during the period?
5. More generally, how important were the new institutions for the growth of knowledge?

13.00 –18.00 Departure to Bran.

The bus will start from New Europe College, 11, Plantelor Street at 13.00 h and will collect the last participants from the airport at 14.00 h.

20.00 Opening dinner at Bran.

Monday, July 31st

Morning session

10.00 – 11.30 Seminar: *Individuation in Early Modern Philosophy (I): Descartes*

Proponents: Vlad Alexandrescu, Lucian Petrescu

Texts: *Letter to Mesland*, 9 Feb. 1645 (AT IV 162–70/GB 1960ff); *Principles of Philosophy*, II, 25 (see <http://modernthought.unibuc.ro>)

Coffee Break

Moderator: Roger Ariew

12.00 – 12.45 Sorana Corneanu , *Locke's Inference to Providence*

12.45 – 13.30 Daniel Garber, *Leibniz's Reform of the Mechanical Philosophy*

Lunch Break

Afternoon session

Moderator: Stephen Gaukroger

16.30-17.15 Petruta Naidut: *Towards New Maps of Knowledge in Bacon's Advancement of Learning*

17.15-18.00 Dana Jalobeanu: *Bacon's Brotherhood and its Classical Sources*

18.00-18.45 Peter Anstey: *The Baconianism of Robert Boyle*

18.45-19.30 Constance Blackwell: *Editing Bacon in the 18th century: Establishment of Bacon as the Source of Intellectual Progress*

20.00 Dinner

Tuesday, August 1st

Morning session

10.100-11.30 Seminar: *Individuation in Early Modern Philosophy (II): Spinoza*

Proponents : Dan Garber, Roger Ariew

Texts : Spinoza, *Ethics* II, physical treatise following E2P13; E2P39S (see <http://modernthought.unibuc.ro>)

Coffee Break

Moderator: Vlad Alexandrescu

12.00-12.45 Brandon Look, *Leibniz and the threat of Spinozism*

12.45–13.30 Stephen Gaukroger, *The unity of knowledge: natural philosophical foundations of Spinoza's political theology*

Lunch Break

Afternoon session

Moderator: Cătălin Avramescu

16.30 – 17.15 Eric Lewis, *Paracelsus and the Weapon Salve*

17.15 – 18.00 Irina Stan: *Tales of Body in the Seventeenth Century*

18.00-18.45 Justin Smith: *Adamic Essentialism, Aberrant Traits, and the Problem of Species Boundaries in Early Modern Zoology*

20.00 Dinner

Wednesday, August 2nd

Morning session

10.00–11.30 Seminar: *Individuation in Early Modern Philosophy (III): Locke*

Proponents: Peter Anstey, Sorana Corneanu

Texts: Locke, *Essay* II.27 (see <http://modernthought.unibuc.ro>)

Coffee Break

Moderator: Giulia Belgioioso

12.00 – 12.45 Raphaelae Fruet, *Translating Galileo: translation and rewriting as a figure of epistemological transition*

12.45-13.30 Daniele Cozzoli: *The Development of Mersenne's Optics*

Lunch Break

Afternoon session

Moderator: Dana Jalobeanu

16.30-17.15 Nathan Smith: *Mathesis, Mathematics and Method in Descartes's Regulae: A Reprise*

17.15-18.00 Lucian Petrescu: *Descartes and the Internal Senses*

18.00-18.45 Roger Ariew, *Descartes and the Cartesians on Ethics*

20.00 Dinner

Thursday, August 3rd

Morning session

10:00 – 11:30 Seminar: *Individuation in Early Modern Philosophy (III): Leibniz*

Proponents: Daniel Garber, Roger Ariew

Texts: *On Transsubstantiation* (1668?), *A New System of the Nature and Communication of Substances, and of the Union of the Soul and Body* (1695)

(see <http://modernthought.unibuc.ro>)

Coffee Break

Moderator: Sorana Corneanu

12.00-12.45 Igor Agostini: *Caterus on God as “ens a se”*

12.45 -13.30 Vasiliki Grigoropoulou: *Reformation of Knowledge, Will and Intellect*

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

Moderator: Constance Blackwell

16.30–17.15 Alison Searle: *Richard Baxter's Letters: The Epistolary Exchange of Knowledge and its Moral Values*

17.15-18.00 Adina Ruiu: *De l'expérience du voyageur a l'expérience scientifique*

18.00 – 18.45 Mihnea Dobre: *Scientific Journals of the 17th Century*

19.00–20.00 **Closing Discussion:**

- Giulia Belgioioso, Il Centro di Studi su Descartes e il Seicento of Lecce – presentation of works in progress.
- Sorana Corneanu, Dana Jalobeanu, FME: *Natural Philosophy as a Practice of the Mind. The Stoic Roots of Early Modern Philosophy* – presentation of a FME research project.

Friday, August 4th Excursion and departure to Bucharest.
