



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di
Filosofia e Beni
Culturali



MaY 30, 2025
(Friday) / 10.30
CET - Online

Organizer and Coordinator:
Donato Verardi, Ca' Foscari
University of Venice (Italy)

To register: Please contact
donato.verardi@unive.it



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MAGIC AS KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

This Roundtable Discussion aims to explore the multifaceted role of Magic as a form of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe, challenging the conventional perception of magic merely as superstition. Participants will examine how magical practices, beliefs, and texts were integral to the intellectual landscape of the period, influencing fields such as natural philosophy, medicine, and the arts. We will investigate the ways in which magic served as a legitimate epistemological framework, offering insights into the natural world and human experience. Furthermore, the discussion will address the societal implications of this knowledge, including its intersection with religion, gender, and power dynamics. Ultimately, this roundtable seeks to reframe our understanding of magic in the Early Modern period, recognizing it as a complex and evolving form of knowledge that contributed significantly to the development of modern thought.

Invited Speakers

Gal Sofer

Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)

Solomonic Magic in Early Modern Europe

Thibaut Rioult

Free University of Brussels (Belgium)

Illusionism as Critical Knowledge in Early Modern Magic

Adrien Mangili

University of Geneva (Switzerland)

Natural Magic and Free Thought

Manuel De Carli

University of Tours (France)

*Magical Melodies and Images of Tarantism:
A Natural History*

Michael Pickering

Trinity College – University of Melbourne
(Australia)

Natural Magic as a Technology of the Self