Archimedes 55 New Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

H Darrel Rutkin

Sapientia Astrologica: Astrology, Magic and Natural Knowledge, ca. 1250-1800

I. Medieval Structures (1250-1500): Conceptual, Institutional, Socio-Political, Theologico-Religious and Cultural

Springer

Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

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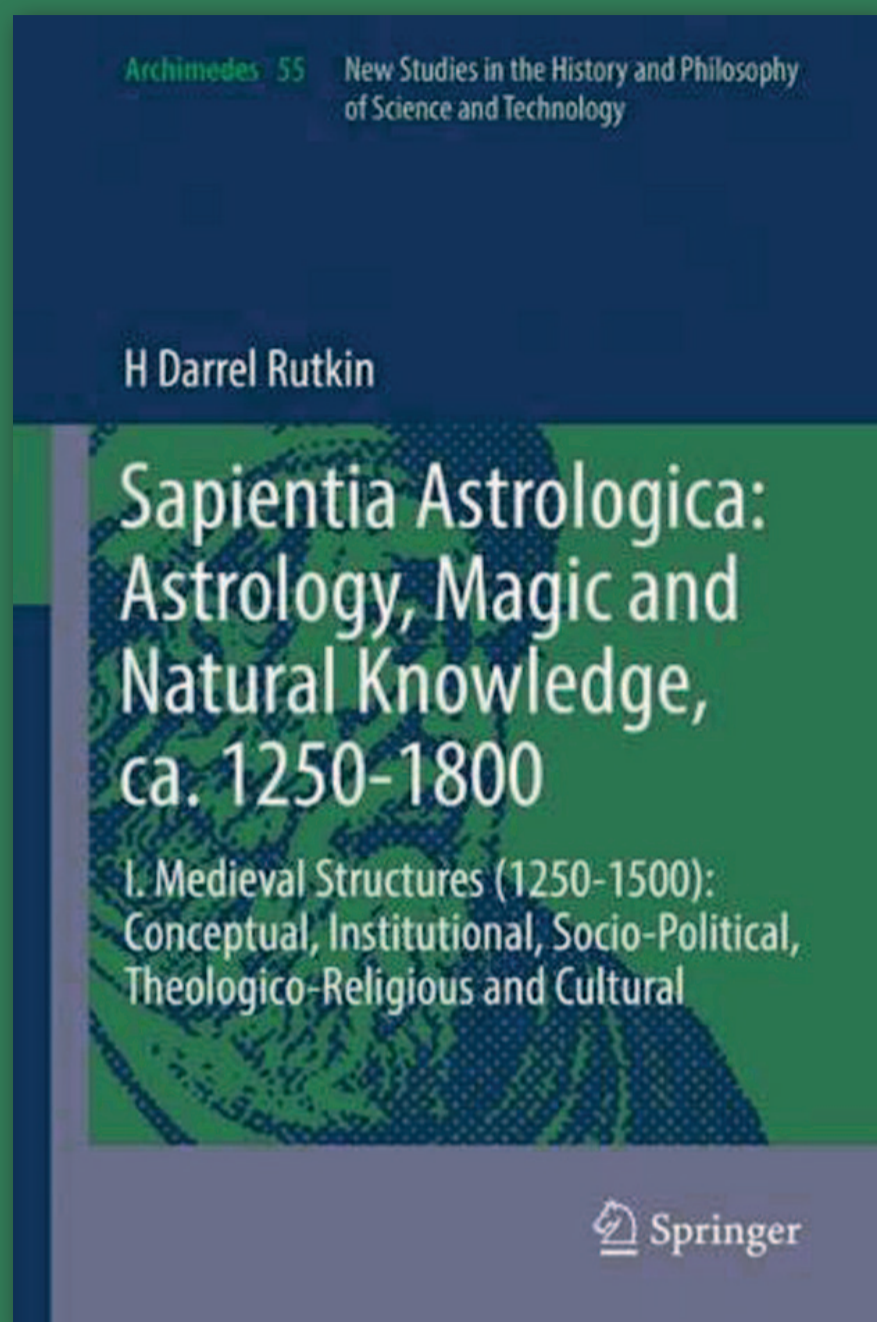
**Wednesday
2019 September 18**
h. 3.00 – 5.30 p.m.

**Malcanton Marcorà Palace,
Aula Valent**
Dorsoduro 3484/D,
Venice

Introduction by prof.
Pietro Daniel Omodeo

Guests hosted by
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Workshop ERC EarlyModernCosmology

Presentation by the author **H Darrel Rutkin** of the book
Sapientia Astrologica: Astrology, Magic and Natural Knowledge, ca. 1250-1800

Discussants
David Juste Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich
Monica Azzolini Università degli Studi di Bologna

Astrology became, in the 13th century, a richly mathematical system that served to integrate astronomy and natural philosophy, precisely the aim of the "New Science" of the 17th century. As such, it becomes a fundamentally important historical question to determine why this promising astrological synthesis was rejected in favor of a rather different mathematical natural philosophy—and one with a very different causal structure than Aristotle's.

Darrel Rutkin's new book, *Sapientia Astrologica: Astrology, Magic and Natural Knowledge, ca. 1250-1800*, explores the changing perspective of astrology from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Era. It introduces a framework for understanding both its former centrality and its later removal from legitimate knowledge and practice. The discussion in volume I, to be presented here, reconstructs the changing roles of astrology in Western science, theology, and culture from 1250 to 1500.

Rutkin considers both the how and the why. He analyzes and integrates a broad range of sources. This analysis shows that the history of astrology—in particular, the story of the protracted criticism and ultimate removal of astrology from the realm of legitimate knowledge and practice—is crucial for fully understanding the transition from premodern Aristotelian-Ptolemaic natural philosophy to modern Newtonian science. This removal was neither obvious nor unproblematic.