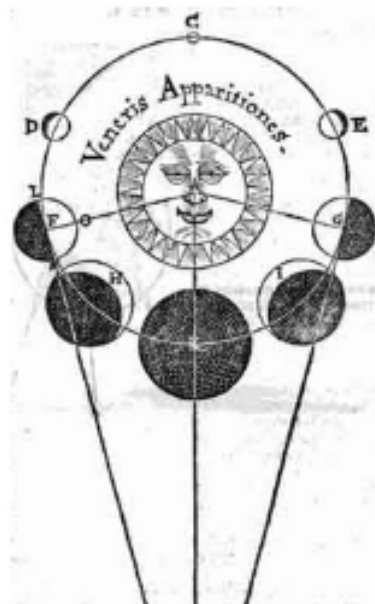


Public lecture organised by the Italian Institute of Culture in Pretoria in collaboration with the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.



Galileo Galilei
(1564-1642)
Science, Technology and Beauty

Lecture presented by:
Prof Francesco Piro
University of Salerno

Date: 4 May 2009

Time: 18h30 for 19h00

Venue: Botanical Gardens, Auditorium
Durban

Info: Italian Institute of Culture - Pretoria

tel: 012 343 6678 ; **e-mail:** addetto.iicpretoria@esteri.it

refreshments will be served after the lecture



FRANCESCO PIRO

Francesco Piro (Naples, 1957) studied in Salerno (Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia), Naples (Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici fondato da Benedetto Croce) and Urbino (Istituto di Filosofia). An established Professor at the University of Salerno since 2005, he lectures History of Philosophy in the Faculty of Educational Sciences and History of Science at the Faculty of Arts.

The focus of his published works is mainly on Early-Modern Philosophy, with reference to Leibniz's Metaphysics and doctrines pertaining to it, the analysis of their sources, the inner development of Leibniz's views and their relevance. Francesco Piro's recent works are an attempt at resolving certain interpretative questions posed by Leibniz's works – for example, the existence of several definitions of the well-known "Principle of Sufficient Reason". This research has led him to extend his analysis to a wider context of School debates concerning the nature of Causality, Determinism, Future Contingents, Theory of Events and Philosophy of Action.

Other philosophers on which he has composed analytical works include Baruch Spinoza, Christian Thomasius and Giambattista Vico. These works focus mainly on their ideas on Morality, Politics and Practical Reason. Francesco Piro's historical research also extends itself to the psychology of the irrational, with a particular focus on the role played by the notions of «imagination» or «phantasy» in the philosophical and medical explanations of irrational beliefs and behaviours, madness, but also visionary or prophetic attitudes. His most recent works on this topic mainly concern Avicenna's psychology of «inner senses» and its long influence on Latin medical and philosophical psychology.