

Workshop

Sceptical Trends in the European Universities of the Early Modern Period

14–15 August 2023



While René Descartes and Michel de Montaigne, who are often associated with early modern scepticism, both worked outside of an institutional context, scepticism was a prevalent theme in European universities during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. From Iberian Jesuits to Parisian Thomists and secular professors in Italy, scholars engaged with scepticism in various ways, including discussions on certitude in sense perception and reflections on religious fideism, as well as sceptical attitudes inherent in the complex reception dynamics of the medieval intellectual heritage and the Aristotelian sciences. This workshop will delve into these issues with presentations on the sixteenth-century reception of Sextus Empiricus, sceptical trends in commentaries on the *Summa Theologica* and in the *Commentarii conimbricenses*, and theories of intelligible species as a *locus* of expressing sceptical tendencies. Through these individual talks and ensuing discussions, we aim to gain new and insightful perspectives on the intricate connection between the intellectual pursuits of early modern universities and the long-standing tradition of European scepticism.

Convenor

- Michael Engel (Universität Hamburg)

Participants

- Michael Della Rocca (Yale University)
- Antonella Del Prete (Università di Torino)
- Amos Edelheit (Maynooth University)
- Daniel Heider (University of South Bohemia)
- Simona Langella (Università di Genova)
- Hélène Leblanc (UCLouvain)
- Zita Tóth (King's College London)

Venue

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies

Please contact MCAS for registration and further information.

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Funded by

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation