

In the early modern period, the demarcation and the self-affirmation of Christian denominations did not only tangle with confrontation between various competing confessions, but also with pluralization within them. In this field of tension, Christian churches did not only claim a binding authority over doctrinal and canonical matters, but also over emerging scientific disciplines. This conference will delve into the practices that produced knowledge, in between modes of confrontation, baroque strategies of verbal equivocation or dissimulation, and adaptation, with the help of examples from the natural sciences, theology, the humanities, and law. It raises the question of how beliefs and findings could be verified to the extent, that they became regarded as full-blown truths.

Conference venues

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
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Academia Belgica
Via Omero, 8
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Interdisciplinary and international conference organised by Andreea Badea (Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom), Bruno Boute (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main), Marco Cavarzere (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) and Steven Vanden Broecke (Universiteit Gent).

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Making Truth – Administering Truth.

Establishing Credibility
in Early Modern History



International conference
Rome, 15 – 17 November 2017

Wednesday, 15 November, 13.30–20.00
Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom

13.30	Martin Baumeister Roma Welcome
	Andreea Badea Roma Introduction
I - The Pitfalls of Doctrine (1)	
Chair: Paolo Broggio Roma	
14.00	Rudolf Schüssler Bayreuth Conflicting Truth Claims – Scholastic Approaches to Reasonable Disagreement
	Maria Pia Donato Paris-Cagliari Truth and Evidence, Truth and Authority: Who Speaks of What and Why in the late 17 th -Century Debate on Atoms vs Matter and Form and Other Aristotelian Relics
15.30	Coffee Break
II - The Pitfalls of Doctrine (2)	
Chair: Paolo Broggio Roma	
16.00	Leen Spruit Nijmegen Modern Philosophy and Ancient Heresies: New Wine in Old Bottles?
	Bruno Boute Frankfurt am Main The Uncertainties of Salvation. Roman Censorship and the Sacrament of Penance
18.00	Keynote Rivka Feldhay Tel Aviv Disciplining the Sciences in Conflict Zones
20.00	Reception

Thursday, 16 November, 9.00–18.00
Academia Belgica

9.00	Coffee
III - Wandering into Distant Realms: Fact-Finding in History and Geography	
Chair: Stefano Zen Napoli	
9.15	Andreea Badea Roma Defining Past and Present – Hagiographical Debates and Historical Criticism in 17 th -Century Rome
	Jan Machielsen Cardiff Putting Martyrs on Trial Again: The Congregation of Rites, the Scrutiny of Evidence and the Martyrs of Gorcum, 1572–1675
10.45	Coffee Break
IV - The Assurances of Legal and Administrative Practice (1)	
Chair: Stefano Zen Napoli	
11.15	Markus Friedrich Hamburg Genealogical Truth between Archives and Administration
	Birgit Emich Frankfurt am Main Making Truth, Making Saints: Procedures, Credibility and Patronage in Early Modern Canonization
12.45	Lunch
V - The Assurances of Legal and Administrative Practice (2)	
Chair: Irene Fosi Chieti	
13.45	Paolo Quattrone Edinburgh In Search of Value: Mystery and Accounting Practices in the Jesuit Order
	Vittoria Fiorelli Napoli "L'esperienze non sono fedeli scorte a portarci alla cognizione della verità". Giacinto De Cristofaro and the Trial against Atheists

15.15 Coffee Break

VI - The Assurances of Legal and Administrative Practice (3)	
Chair: Irene Fosi Chieti	
15.45	Marco Cavarzere Frankfurt am Main Plural Truths: Casuistry and the Interpretation of Moral Law
	Cecilia Cristellon Frankfurt am Main Choosing Information, Selecting Truth. The Roman Inquisition and the Construction of Normativity of Religious Pluralism

Friday, 17 November, 9.30 -15.15
Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom

VII - The Senses Deluded. Exploring the Nature of Things	
Chair: Ugo Baldini Roma	
9.30	Koen Vermeir Paris Translating Truth: Tracing Scientific Metaphors in Religious Contexts
	Steven Vanden Broecke Gent How (not) to be a Catholic Copernican after 1616: Evidence from the Low Countries
11.00	Lunch
VIII - Healing the Soul, Healing the Body: Religion and Medicine	
Chair: Fernanda Alfieri Trento	
11.45	Jetze Touber Utrecht Medicina Sacra in Post-Tridentine Catholicism
	Brendan Röder München Judging by Appearance. 'True' Knowledge of Clerical Bodies in the Catholic Church (ca. 1700)
13.15	Steven Vanden Broecke Gent Conclusions and Discussion