

## Session 13

### **RELIGIONS AS A MEANS FOR/AGAINST COMMUNICATING SCIENCES: ORTHODOXY, CATHOLICISM, AND REFORMATION.**

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The general theme of the Conference, communicating science, offers an interesting possibility to work on the question of the relations between science and religion. In what extent the main European Christian religions have been vectors of communicating science and/or obstacles to this. It is clear that the two aspects have coexisted and the Symposium aims to illustrate this twinning by giving precise examples. The question of how a secular or even atheist conception contributed to solve this contradictory function could also be investigated.

The Symposium does not intent to survey the whole question but only to contribute to the discussion on the theme. The case studies could concern various historical periods, from the beginnings of the Christian era to the contemporary period.

The Symposium aims also to illustrate the geographical dimension of this problematic. Indeed, the religions investigated, Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Reformation concern all the regions of the European thought, from Constantinople to Ireland and from Russia to Italy.

Exploring historically the relationship sciences-religions is essential in order to understand the relation societies - sciences. The "Needham question" (why certain societies rather than others develop a specific scientific practice) is closely tied with this relationship.

The Symposium aims to contribute to the filling of an important gap in the historiography of the history of science: while a huge literature exists on science and religion in Western Christianity there is almost a void for the areas of the Eastern Christianity. We aim to gather specialists for the study of the relations between science and religion concerning the three main components of Christianity, i.e. Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Reformation, in order to reveal unknown dimensions of science-religion relations in an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective.