



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

**3 ERC-FUNDED DOCTORAL POSITIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT “FROM EAST TO WEST, AND BACK AGAIN: STUDENT TRAVEL AND TRANSCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN RENAISSANCE EUROPE (C. 1470- C. 1620)”**

*Call for Applications: 3 doctoral positions (90%).*

Applications are invited for 3 doctoral positions to be held for up to four years from 1 November 2021 at the Centre for the History of Renaissance Knowledge in the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The PhD students, as students of the doctoral school will work in within the ERC project “From East to West, and Back Again: Student Travel and Transcultural Knowledge Production in Renaissance Europe (c. 1470- c. 1620)”, led by Professor Valentina Lepri.

**Information about the project**

The main aim of the project is to provide a first global study of transcultural knowledge production in the early modern age (c.1470- c.1620), by examining the development of academic disciplines within the international and multicultural environment in which they were taught and studied.

The guiding idea of the project is that the richest and most varied evidence of transcultural knowledge produced during the early modern age was provided by central-eastern European students migrating westwards. The study perspective that traditionally focuses on university academics will be reversed, concentrating on travelling students seen as knowledge agents. The manuscript anthologies produced by central-eastern European students travelling westwards are unique documentary evidence of the production of transcultural knowledge in the Renaissance period. The students who produced them were of Slavic, Hungarian and Baltic linguistic backgrounds and their countries bordered with the Latin world on one side and the Russian and

Ottoman Empires on the other. Through study trips they received education in a certain disciplinary field, but during their sojourns they also discovered classical Greek and Latin culture, vernacular literature and the artistic expressions of the host country, also experiencing their customs and lifestyles. Their learning was not restricted to a neutral recording of the subjects of study; on the contrary, it was an act of re-elaboration of the new knowledge influenced both by the individuals' intellectual baggage and the place where they were studying. The project will involve the interpenetration of intellectual history and the history of central-eastern European student migrations, involving a meticulous analysis of their notebooks. Exploring the students' contribution to the history of intellectual thought will shed light on a significant historic phase in the formation of European identity.

### **Profile and commitment of candidates**

Successful applicants will join the ERC research team by focusing on one of the following areas:

1. History of early modern medicine
2. History of early modern theology
3. History of law, or history of rhetoric, or history of philosophy in the early modern age

Each PhD student will focus on a discipline of the higher faculties of the university as was traditionally structured from the Middle age. The aim is to analyse the relationship between the study of a discipline and non-academic texts in a limited selection of documents, three notebooks per PhD student.

Applicants should have an excellent Master thesis and research potential in the disciplinary areas outlined above, as well as specific experience of working with early modern archival and codicological materials. Teamwork ability, readiness for cooperative research, and openness to multiple disciplinary approaches are also essential.

Project members will communicate in English.

Preference will be given to equally qualified female applicants.

Enquiries: Danilo Facca [dfacca@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:dfacca@ifispan.edu.pl) or Valentina Lepri [vlepri@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:vlepri@ifispan.edu.pl)

To apply, please send full CV, sample of written work, two-page of motivation letter for research in one of the areas listed above and recommendation letter (optional) by 15:00 (Warsaw time) on August 3rd 2021 (all documents in English, electronically only), to both:

[sns@gssr.edu.pl](mailto:sns@gssr.edu.pl)

and to Katarzyna Rusinek-Abarca, research promoter of the Centre for the History of Renaissance Knowledge:

[katarzyna.rusinek-abarca@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:katarzyna.rusinek-abarca@ifispan.edu.pl)