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della Fisica e dell'Astronomia

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Salvatore Esposito



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In copertina: Giacinto Diano, *Affreschi della Sala del Lazzaretto*. Picture by E. Giaquinto.

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## Introductory remarks

The XXXVI annual SISFA congress has developed through different sections touching a number of key topics in history of science, ranging from antiquity to the XX century. Also, science and education in schools and museums, as well as scientific instruments and collections, have been the focus of dedicated sessions.

In addition to such “institutional” sections, which form the core of the Society, the SISFA Congress has also focused on special topics devoted to: “Historical collections of Scientific Instruments in Naples and Southern Italy”; “Gravitational waves: a century of General Relativity predictions”; “Giuseppe Saverio Poli (1746-1825) and the development of science in Southern Italy between the XVIII and XIX centuries”. A special Panel Discussion on “Vertical and transversal skills: the role of research in the history of physics and astronomy in education” was in addition proposed to the conveners.

The topical session on Giuseppe Saverio Poli has been held at the *Scuola Militare Nunziatella*, of which Poli was commander at the beginning of the XIX century, The session was aimed to analyze the multifaceted scientific activities of one of the most influential scientists in Southern Italy, whose interests across a large variety of topics: medical electricity, meteorology, earthquakes, military and natural history. Though working mainly in Naples, where he taught experimental physics, his scientific studies won an international reputation as well as membership in the principal Academies of Italy and Europe, including the Royal Society of London.



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*Edited by Salvatore Esposito*

**Abstract**

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*Salvatore Esposito, former member of the Governing Council and secretary of the Italian Society of the Historians of Physics and Astronomy, is Full Professor (qualification) in Didactics and History of Physics and Associate Professor (qualification) in Theoretical Physics of Fundamental Interactions. His research interests range from theoretical physics, to science and museum popularization, to history of physics. He is considered one of the world experts on Ettore Majorana’s work.*

E-mail: Salvatore.Esposito@na.infn.it