



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: THREAT - Girolamo Cardano: Philosopher of Threat

FUNDING PROGRAMME: H2020 Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions Individual Fellowship

CALL: H2020-MSCA-IF-2019-European Fellowship – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

KEYWORDS: *Girolamo Cardano, natural philosophy, early-modern science, early-modern mathematics, risk society, history of risk, epistemology of threat, Roman Inquisition, spiritual expertise, secular expertise*

HOST DEPARTMENT: DFBC – Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Prof. Pietro Daniel Omodeo

FELLOW: Jonathan Regier

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 183.473,28	€ 183.473,28

ABSTRACT:

Throughout Europe and the Americas, we see how the expert knowledge of traditional secular institutions—the expert management of risk and otherness—is doubted and undermined by groups questioning its hidden motives and meanings. The current project addresses the deep history at play in our views of threat and individual agency in managing threat. It asks about antecedent culture wars, with the expectation that a larger perspective will help us to rethink our current categories. This two-year research project will examine the corpus of Girolamo Cardano (1501-1576), as well as his Roman Inquisition documents, in order to chart an early-modern transformation of great significance: the shift in the management of threat from spiritual expertise to secular expertise. Girolamo Cardano was the most widely-read natural philosopher of the latter sixteenth century. His literary output and fame stretched across numerous disciplines—medicine, astrology, natural philosophy, moral philosophy, mathematics—and his ideas continued to exert major influence well into the seventeenth century. As diverse as his projects and interests were, a common theme unites them: the individual, by Cardano's reckoning, lives in a network of danger, from bodily illness and accident, to chance events, to faults of intellect and memory, to the vagaries of human passion. In a recent study of his Inquisition trial, I have examined the place of Catholic doctrine in his astrology and celestial physics, and the key points of criticism leveled at Cardano by the Holy Office. This project would build from that foundation, significantly expanding and deepening its results. Assisted by tools from the digital-humanities, it will establish an anatomy of threat in Cardano's work, consider how natural philosophy acts as a response to threats, and examine how the Roman Inquisition's censorship of Cardano represents a criticism of secular expert approaches to threat.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 st February 2021	31 st January 2023

BENEFICIARY

1. Ca' Foscari University of Venice	Italia	Coordinator
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