



The Neapolitan Enlightenment

Science, Medicine, and the Exchange of Knowledge

Edited by Donato Verardi

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Repositions eighteenth-century Naples as a dynamic center of scientific innovation, intellectual exchange, and civil progress that helped shape the foundations of modern knowledge across Europe and beyond.

This volume demonstrates how the Neapolitan Enlightenment served as a vibrant “European laboratory,” where rigorous scientific inquiry and deep civic commitment intertwined, positioning Naples as a central node of modern knowledge.

Key selling points

Naples as a Global Scientific Hub: Re-evaluates 18th-century Naples not as a peripheral outpost, but as a central, innovative “European Laboratory” deeply integrated into the international Republic of Letters.

The Civic Dimension of Science: Highlights the unique “civil science” of the Neapolitan Enlightenment, demonstrating how natural philosophy, medicine, and mathematics were directly geared toward public utility and social renewal.

Social and Institutional Diversity: Explores the co-constructed nature of knowledge through diverse intellectual biographies, featuring elite women scholars (Pignatelli, Ardinghelli) and provincial physicians alongside university chairs.

Interdisciplinary Scope: Offers a rich, multifaceted narrative that seamlessly bridges the history of medicine, field volcanology, Newtonian physics, anatomy, and epistemological debates in mathematics.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Donato Verardi (PhD) is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and holds the National Scientific Habilitation as Associate Professor. A specialist in Renaissance and early modern natural philosophy and magic, he has published widely and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Class A journal *Arcana Naturae*.

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