
For several years, the new concept of space that emerged between the end of the 15th and during the 16th century has been the object of study by several disciplines. Besides well-known works by historians of science, contributions by epistemologists and historians of geography analysed the genesis of both the concept of universal Earth – i.e. the representation and conception of the word as a unity – and new perspectives on art and science.

Far from being a merely quantitative development, the discovery of new territories led to a resemantization of space, transforming the way territory was described, mapped and conceptualised. For example, as affirmed by several authors, 16th-century maps are qualitatively different from previous ones. They do not simply display and measure territory, but also provide a renovated vision of the world conditioned by the social and political framework of contemporary society. This shift in modern cartography attests one of the main consequences of the new resemantization of space: the territorialisation of power/politicization of space.

This resemantization of space also underpins the approach of European thinkers to the ‘newly discovered’ populations, which planted the seeds of what will become modern anthropology and laid down the indispensable premises for the forthcoming rise of capitalism.

In conclusion, despite the specificity of each discipline, the pervasive renovation of 16th-century episteme constructed scientifically a new concept of earth, conceived as “the universal space of human existence”.

We encourage the submission of innovative papers exploring, yet not necessarily limited to, the following topics during the early modern periods:

- The emergence of the new globalized spatiality in philosophy, art, literature and other sciences;
- The representation of otherness (newly discovered populations, the ottoman world, Asian cultures, etc.);
- The emerging of capitalist system and its social and gender implications (pirates, withes, tradeswomen and the attempts to construct other social forms);
- Counter-Reformation Church and history of the Missions;
- The attempts to theorize political forms of governance of the new global space.

Please send proposals by 5 August 2021 to Alberto FABRIS (alberto.fabris@jhu.edu). Your proposal should include a title, 150-word abstract, and one-paragraph biographical CV. We are working on the possibility to publish the contributions in a thematic issue of a peer-reviewed journal.