

CALL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICANTS
ELEMENTS OF REASONING / ELEMENTS OF NATURE: PHYSIS SUMMER CONVIVIAM 2024
The University of Notre Dame's Rome Global Gateway
17-20 June, 2024, Rome

PHYSIS: the Notre Dame Laboratory for the Study of Nature in the Premodern World, housed in the University of Notre Dame's John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, in conjunction with the *Notre Dame History of Philosophy Forum* and with financial support of the Medieval Institute is seeking graduate student applicants to participate in a week-long advanced summer research seminars on the topic of *Elements of Nature/Elements of Reasoning*.

A distinctive feature of premodern philosophy and science is the organization of nature, reasoning, and methods into elements (στοιχεῖα). On the one hand, countless thinkers from the pre-Socratics to medieval philosophers either reduced nature into one or two, then four or five elements (earth, water, air, fire, and aether) or developed atomistic models, whether materialist or mathematical. On the other hand, philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians in the premodern world also conceived of elements of reasoning as they developed axiomatic methods of demonstration and argumentation. Perhaps the most famous example of this kind of reasoning is Euclid's *Elements* (Στοιχεῖα), but other ancient and medieval thinkers composed works in elemental modes and formulated axiomatic methods. These two threads in the premodern history of philosophy and science are often studied independently, but careful examination identifies commonalities and attempts to connect the phenomena.

The seminars will be held in Rome at the University of Notre Dame's Rome Global Gateway from 17-20 June, 2024 and will consist of 8 research faculty and 8 graduate students. All participants will be responsible for leading a research seminar on a related topic. Successful applicants will receive room and board for the duration of the *Convivium*.

CONFIRMED SEMINAR FACULTY PARTICIPANTS

Riccardo Chiaradonna, Università degli Studi Roma Tre

David Cory, University of Notre Dame

Therese Cory, University of Notre Dame

Robert Goulding, University of Notre Dame

Jan Opsomer, De Wulf-Mansion Centre for Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, KU-Leuven

Vincenzo de Risi, CNRS, France and Max Plank Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Denis Robichaud, University of Notre Dame

Luca Tuninetti, Pontificia Università Urbaniana

Applicants need to be enrolled in a graduate program (MA, PhD, or equivalent) and submit the following three items:

- i) a short CV
- ii) 500 word description of research interest and / or thesis project, with a proposal for a seminar presentation and key texts to be discussed
- iii) a brief endorsement via email from the student's advisor (a letter of rec. is not necessary)

Please submit all of the required materials at physis@nd.edu by 15 February, 2024.

Successful applicants will be responsible for a \$250 fee to help defray the costs of organizing the seminar.

<https://reilly.nd.edu/graduate/the-study-of-nature-in-the-premodern-world/>