



The Copernican Turn in French Political Thought

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The aim of this presentation is to open up new perspectives on the impact of Copernicus's theory on French political thought. Prior scholarship has focused on the importance of Heliocentrism as one of the core elements of French absolutism and the vision of the ruler as the equivalent of the sun, exemplified by Louis XIV's role as the Roi-Soleil. Challenging earlier interpretations, I will analyse a body of sources demonstrating that the heliocentric theory provided a new framework for exploring delegation of authority, the workings of political power, and the relationship between rulers and ministers. The ultimate objective of the talk is to discuss a set of broader issues related to the use of scientific theories within the context of the emergence of the modern state.

Zeit: Wednesday, 12. June, 6 pm

Ort: Zentrum für Alte Kulturen, Langer Weg 11, SR 1