

A Seminar Series on the History of Logic, and beyond

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Abstract

We present the Seminar Series on the History of Logic, held (at the Department of Humanities of the Federico II University of Naples) since September 2024, and a number of side-activities, such as the 1st Naples Workshop on the History of Logic, held (at the same Department as above) on October 28–29 2025.

Keywords

Seminar Series, Workshop, History of Logic

Submitted 07/02/2026; **Accepted** 10/02/2026

How to Cite

Francesco Montesi, Antonio Piccolomini d’Aragona, Francesco Pisano . *A Seminar Series on the History of Logic, and beyond*. *THE REASONER* 20(1) 2026. <https://doi.org/10.54103/1757-0522/30859>

Since September 2024, a Seminar Series on the History of Logic has been regularly held at the Department of Humanities of the Federico II University of Naples. Organised by the authors, the Series consists of talks delivered monthly, either on-line or in person.

The core idea of the seminar series is that historical knowledge is a powerful tool for understanding and advancing in all fields of science, including formal sciences. It has been argued that logic has no history, because it is meant to reflect conceptual, linguistic or ontological structures that are essentially immutable. On the contrary, the history of logic highlights that even the most technical and abstract notions or results are often best grasped by tracing their roots back to their origins, and by following the steps of their evolution throughout the centuries. With respect to formal sciences in general, moreover, the case of logic poses some specific issues, having to do for example with the relationship between logical abstraction and cognitive operations, or between logical expression, writing, semantics, and computation, as well as with respect to historical methodology as such.

Thus, integrating a historical perspective means gaining new insights which allow



for the adoption of a powerful “genealogical” standpoint. In this spirit, the seminar series is open to contributions from or to any tradition, approach, or period in the history of logic.

The 2024–2025 cycle hosted talks by internationally renowned scholars on a wide range of topics, from the Kantian tradition to the Lvov-Warsaw School, from Croce and Brentano to Wittgenstein and Martin-Löf, from structuralism and algebra to Hilbert and geometry. The same holds for the currently ongoing cycle, with talks on dialogical interpretations of Aristotle’s syllogistics via Lorenz and Lorenzen, on Hegel’s logic, on the historical role of mathematical logic in the development of AI, and on Boole. Every two cycles, a volume published by the Springer Synthese Library Series is meant to collect the essays drawn from the monthly talks.

Starting from the beginning of the second cycle, the activities of the seminar series will be furthermore enriched by an annual workshop on the history of logic. The first edition, 1st Naples Workshop on the History of Logic, was held on October 28–29 at the Department of Humanities of the Federico II University of Naples. The workshop gathered and fostered a dialogue among scholars from Italy, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Germany, and Spain. In addition to the keynote speech by Professor Vito Michele Abrusci, the other fourteen presentations were selected through a call for abstracts. The call received forty-five proposals from Europe, North America, and South America, featuring research contributions from diverse perspectives and methodologies on various historical developments of the discipline: from Aristotle’s syllogistics to Medieval and English Humanist logic, covering Herbart, Brentano, and Husserl, up to modern and contemporary mathematical logic (Peirce, Hilbert, Burali-Forti, Behmann, Weyl, Ramsey, Turing, Wittgenstein). The proceedings of the workshop will appear (by the end of 2026) as a volume published by Bibliopolis.

The annual workshops are meant to open the upcoming cycles of the seminar series. Moreover, they are preceded by side-events on broad topics in logic, its history, and its pedagogical aspects. The side-event for the 2025 workshop was a symposium titled *Logic at the Crossroads*, where logicians from different Departments of the Federico II University of Naples (Humanities, Law and Engineering) discussed with other researchers and students the role and pedagogical relevance of logic in a multidisciplinary perspective.

Both the seminar series and the annual workshop are meant to become over the years a stable venue for Italian and international scholars engaged in logic and its history, with the aim of improving existing scholarly exchanges, as well as of establishing new ones.

Besides the Department of Humanities of the Federico II University of Naples, the seminar series and the annual workshops are currently hosted by its laboratories Mechane Lab. Laboratorio di Filosofia della Tecnica and Stone. Laboratory for the Study of Neo-Kantianism. It is sponsored by AILA (Associazione Italiana di Logica e sue Applicazioni) and SILFS (Società Italiana di Logica e Filosofia delle Scienze), as well as by the publishing house Bibliopolis, the Centre Gilles Gaston Granger from the University of Aix-Marseille, the IRN LI (International Research Network “Logic and Interaction”) and the PTS-Network.

Further and up-to-date information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/holnaples> (seminar series), <https://sites.google.com/view/hol-workshop> (workshop).

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