

## Organization

Similar to the format of Gordon Conferences, seminars and discussions will be held in the mornings. Some participants will make a presentation, and others will be lead discussions. Afternoons will be mainly dedicated to particular topics of fundamental and general interest, with formal lectures delivered by invited personalities. The workshop will reconvene in the early evening for additional technical discussions that will be followed by group dinners.

A detailed program, including a list of the organized social events and the hotel in which we will try to set aside rooms for the participants, will be sent to the participants in due time.

If you need any assistance, for example while looking for accommodations or travel guidance, please feel free to contact our colleagues on site at the University of Florence, kindly helping us in this matter, who are well equipped to provide you local information.

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Participation at the event will be informal. Registration fees will be limited to the strict necessary to cover live expenses. Tentative fees, possibly subjected to changes, are the following:

- Senior participant: Eur 650,00.
- Junior participant: Eur 450,00.

## The following individuals have confirmed their participation:

Roberto Ballarini (University of Houston)  
Katia Bertoldi (Harvard University)  
Davide Bigoni (University of Trento)  
Brian Cox (Arachne Consulting)  
Michael W. Czabaj (University of Utah)  
Reinhold Dauskardt (Stanford University)  
Emmanuel Detournay (University of Minnesota)  
Luigi Gambarotta (University of Genoa)  
Huajian Gao (Brown University)  
Martin Genet (École Polytech. France)  
Guy M. Genin (Washington Univ. in St. Louis)  
Stefano Gonella (University of Minnesota)  
Bojan Guzina (University of Minnesota)  
Kyung-Suk Kim (Brown University)  
Chad Landis (University of Texas at Austin)  
Jialiang Le (University of Minnesota)  
Roberta Massabò (University of Genoa)  
Robert McMeeking (Univ. Calif. Santa Barbara)  
David Parks (Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.)  
Pedro Reis (Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.)  
Greg Rodin (University of Texas at Austin)  
Gianni Royer-Carfagni (University of Parma)  
Pradeep Sharma (University of Houston)  
Ashley D. Spear (University of Utah)  
Paolo Spinelli (University of Florence)  
Zhipang Suo (Harvard University)  
Lev Truskinovsky (École Polytech. France)  
Boris Yakobson (Rice University)

To confirm your participation please contact  
Roberto Ballarini ([rballarini@uh.edu](mailto:rballarini@uh.edu))

## DISCORSI E DIALOGHI

*Private Announcement*

## MECHANICS IN SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

Coordinated and organized by

**Roberto Ballarini**  
University of Houston, USA

**Brian Cox**  
Arachne Consulting, USA

**Gianni Royer-Carfagni**  
University of Parma, Italy

**Paolo Spinelli**  
University of Florence, Italy

**June 9-14, 2017**  
**Florence, Italy**

## Introduction

Since the times of the Medici Family, when Florence was the center of the Italian Renaissance, small groups of savants used to meet in this beautiful city, to freely discuss about literature and science. The tradition has continued during the centuries, also through the institution of cultural circles like the Gabinetto Vieusseux, founded in 1819 by Giovan Pietro Vieusseux, rich merchant of Genevan origins. With the support of the Cassa di Risparmio of Florence, we would like to pursue, albeit tentatively, this tradition, promoting the *Discorsi and Dialoghi* (discussions and dialogues) between eminent scholars in the broad area of mechanics, within the physical and mathematical science of solids.

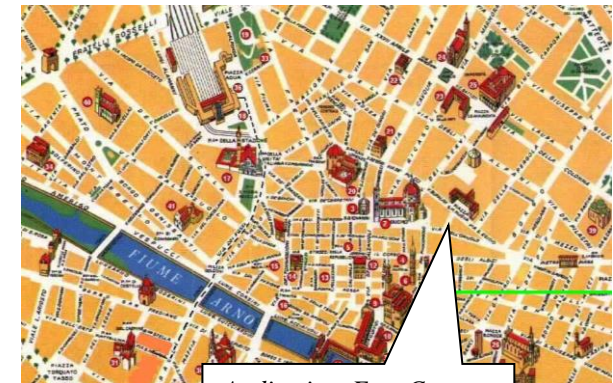
This is not a formal workshop, but rather a cultural scientific meeting among people coming from different countries, which will cover a deliberately wide range of fundamental topics of mechanics and, perhaps more importantly, support lively discussions. The social events associated with this workshop will be as enjoyable as its intellectual components: spouses/partners are very welcome.

Following the aforementioned spirit, this event will be not advertised in journals, forums, social networks. Although someone could repute this quite “anachronistic” in the era of the internet of things (but we would prefer the term “traditional”), we are not seeking for publicity, but rather for a relatively private moment of scientific debate. All the people participating at this event have been personally invited. Nevertheless, we hope in the final participation of a restricted group of young promising students and researchers, to listen at the conferences and participate in the consequent discussion.



Santa Trinita Bridge,  
by Bartolomeo Ammannati (1511-1592).  
Drawing by Giuseppe Zocchi (1711-1767).  
The vault profiles were designed to minimize  
the stresses due to bending, drawing inspiration  
from the natural shape of a hanging wire.

Florence, Italy  
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