

PUBLIC SELECTION BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARDING OF NO. 8 EXPERIENCED GRANTS LASTING 36 MONTHS AND NO. 2 EARLY STAGE GRANTS LASTING 12 MONTHS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH PURSUANT TO ART. 22 OF LAW NO. 240/2010 AT THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME CALLED "STARS SUPPORTING TALENTED RESEARCHER" - ACTION 1 FOR THE YEAR 2019-2021 - 1^a TRANCHE - TYPE A - (CUP: F56C18000670001)

announced with decree of the Chancellor Rep. no. 126/2019 of 28.02.2019 and posted on the official registry of the University on 28.02.2019

CODE N. 6

RESEARCH PROJECT

"The reception of European science in the South American Spanish colonies during XVIIIth century"

Research structure: Department of Letters, Philosophy, Communication

Duration of the grant: 36 months

Scientific Area: 11 – History, philosophy, pedagogy and psychology

Academic recruitment field: 11/C2 – Logic, history and philosophy of science

Academic discipline: M-STO/05 – History of science and technology

Scientific Director: Prof. GIUDICE Franco Salvatore

The aim of this three-year research project is to shed light on the reception, teaching and application of European science in the Spanish colonies. The researcher will concentrate, depending on his or her preparation, either on hard sciences (such as mathematics, physics, astronomy, and their applications, for example to cartography and navigation), or on the natural sciences (for example, botany, or medicine). Since the beginning of the eighteenth century, Spain faced various transformations promoted by the Bourbon royal house aimed at modernizing the country and placing it into the European panorama of the so-called "naciones cultas" – a context that the Iberian peninsula had abandoned as a result of the isolation caused by the Counter-Reformation in the seventeenth century. Thus, the Bourbon government supported the diffusion of various "modern" ideas that were introduced by the so-called "novatores" starting after 1680. Despite these ideas were focused on medicine and chemistry, during 1730, thanks to the influence of scientists such as Maya and Feijoo, the debates on the Copernican and Newtonian system aroused both adherence and critic reactions, partly because the Bourbon government aimed to reduce the power of the Church in the Spanish educational system. The interesting fact is that this phenomenon also took place in the colonies (especially in South America). Therefore, by studying the reception of modern science in the Spanish colonies it is possible to analyze the role of science in these societies and its influence in the political debate in the century of the Enlightenment. Therefore, the research project is located at the intersection of political history and the history of science.

Some lines of research could be the following. A study of scientific teaching given in colleges, religious institutions, universities in the colonial area. Another research area might concern scientific expeditions (for measuring longitude, variation of gravity, meteorology, classification of plants and animals, etc.).

