

The Project

A 3-year research project based at the University of Warwick and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (October 2010–December 2013) is studying the Renaissance diffusion of Aristotelian works in the Italian vernacular.

This initiative aims to redress the almost exclusive concentration on Latin or vernacular works

respectively in Renaissance philosophical and literary studies. It brings together historians of language, literature, philosophy, science and culture to explore how Aristotelianism increasingly reached a broad and non-Latinate public.

Led by Dr David A. Lines (Italian, Warwick) with Profs Simon Gilson (Italian, Warwick) and Jill Kraye (The Warburg Institute, London), this is a collaborative research project between Warwick's Centre for the Study of the Renaissance and the

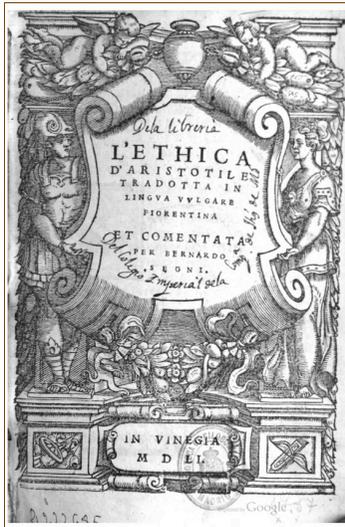
Warburg Institute. It includes a project partner in Italy (Prof. Luca Bianchi), a research fellow (Dr Eugenio Refini) and a PhD student (Grace Allen), in addition to a distinguished Advisory Board.

In terms of scholarly outputs the project has two main objectives: first, to provide, via a **publicly accessible database** (see details below), a census

and description of all relevant materials in both manuscript and print; second, to begin and foster the exploration of various aspects of vernacular Aristotelianism and its relationship with the Latin tradition. The latter objective is being achieved through a number of journal articles by members of the research team, presentations at various conferences and the organisation of **two major international**

colloquia (Pisa, September 2012; The Warburg Institute, June 2013).

News, bibliography, a blog and further details about the project are available on its website.



The Database

The project's online searchable database is a **catalogue of Aristotelian works** written or published in Italian between 1400 and 1650. The census covers both **manuscript and printed sources** preserved in libraries in Italy, other European countries and the US. (The census covers around 300 manuscripts and over 200 printed editions.) Given the heterogeneous nature of the sources studied, the database has a flexible structure and offers details concerning both content and material aspects.

The catalogue is conceived as a census of **works** related to the Renaissance interpretation of Aristotelian and pseudo-Aristotelian texts. **Translations, commentaries, paraphrases, dialogues** and other genres directly linked to the Aristotelian corpus (e.g., the *Politics*, *Rhetoric*, and the *Secret of Secrets*) loom large. We have also included several original works

that draw (more or less explicitly) on Aristotelian sources. Each work included is described in terms of its contents, material aspects (*incipit*, *explicit*, length, publication details, etc.) and a wide range of paratextual features (such as prefaces, dedications, forewords, notes to readers, indices, tables and diagrams). Together, these can offer useful clues as to a work's intended audience.

The database allows users to find and sort, for instance, all Italian works on the *Ethics* for a specified chronological period. It is also possible to **search by author, genre, subject (e.g., 'natural philosophy'), dedicatee, printer and other fields**. The results include both manuscripts (with relative shelfmarks) and printed editions

(linked when possible to digitised copies available on the web). Bibliographical notes are provided to fundamental scholarly tools such as Kristeller's *Iter Italicum*, ISTC and EDIT16.



Events

- May 1st 2012 - University of Warwick - Database Launch
- September 27th-28th 2012 - Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa - 1st Colloquium
- June 21st-22nd 2013 - The Warburg Institute, London - 2nd Colloquium

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Web www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/vernaculararistotelianism

Blog blogs.warwick.ac.uk/vernacularistotle/

Cover picture: Aristotle, *Natural Works* (Frankfurt: Andreas Wechel, 1577)



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Vernacular Aristotelianism in Renaissance Italy

c. 1400 - c. 1650



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