





16th International Summer School 2010

European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication At the Multimedia LAB & Research Center, Rome-Italy

"Social Representations and Sciences"

16th - 27th July 2010 http://www.europhd.eu/html/\_onda02/07/18.00.00.00.shtml

#### Key Lecture

# European Ph.D

on Social Representations and Communication

www.europhd.eu



S



## The role of the astro-amateurs in our society Emilio Sassone Corsi President of UAI - Unione Astrofili Italiani

# Why astro-amateur ?

- Astronomy was the *first* science, it was born with Man: the ancients had neither television nor Internet and had to settle for an unpolluted night sky;
- \* there isn't a similar phenomenon in other scientific disciplines: the bio-amateurs or mathematic-amateurs are comparatively non-existent;
- \* there are very few barriers to enter the Astronomy field;
- Astronomy is the one of the most attractive scientific discipline;
- Astronomy is cross-disciplinary: through Astronomy it is possible to talk about physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology but also in literature, art, poetry ...

## just two examples... Some very famous astro-amateurs

#### William Herschel (1738 - 1822)

- Musician until the age of thirty-five;
- In the spring of 1773 he stumbled into a popular book entitled "Astronomy Explained upon Sir Isaac Newton's Principles" that hit his imagination so profoundly that it changed his life. This reading inspired him, revealed a world he never imagined;
- he discovered Uranus (1781), some of its satellites (Titania and Oberon), and some satellites of Saturn (Mimas and Enceladus);
- he discovered the infrared light;
- he studied the stars evolution and classified a very large number of strange objects.



# Some very famous astro-amateurs

#### Edwin Hubble (1889 - 1953)

- lawyer until the age of thirty, although he has always been an amateur astronomer;
- he worked at Mount Wilson Observatory, discovering the expansion of the Universe (1925) and the law relating the distance of the galaxy to their speed;
- This discovery is one of the key evidence of the existence of the Big Bang, thus proving that our Universe had an origin (13.7 Billion years ago).



# The movement of amateur astronomers in Europe

#### in France

- Camille Flammarion (1842 1925) changed the understanding of science's popularization;
- With his books and his communicative power has achieved more than 60 new planetariums in all French cities;
- the French Astronomical Society unites in a single forum astronomers and amateur astronomers;
- The magazine Ciel et Espace has a circulation of 120,000 copies;
- Estimates show about 100,000 French amateur astronomers.



# The movement of amateur astronomers in Europe

### in the UK

- In the UK the Royal Astronomical Society was founded in 1820 and its first president was Sir William Herschel;
- In 1890 was founded the BAA British Astronomical Association, a prestigious English association of amateur astronomers;
- since 1957, the amateur astronomer Sir Patrick Moore (1925 - present), holds a monthly evening TV program (channel BBC1) called Sky at Night, which became a cult for all the English Science and Astronomy fans;
- Estimates show about 90,000 English amateur astronomers.



# What is UAI

- \* about 30.000 members (direct and indirect)
- # 200 local Associations
- Research Sections in collaboration with Italian and foreign astronomers
- \* Astronomy education at school
- \* Astronomy popularization in the society
- \* struggle against pollution (light and cultural)

# Our Web Site www.uai.it

### **RAI Televideo pages**



www.uai.it; e-mail:tlv(at)uai.it

572 Almanacco

576 Oroscopo

### Our magazine (bi-montly)



## The Calendar of events

Il primo venerdi di ogni mese una costellazione sopra di nui

LEA STRAIDEINARIA DEI SOCI IAN

22 febbraio NE BELLA COMMISSION

0 - 1 ma

ONE DELLA COMMESSIONE

20 - 21 Juglio APOLLO 11, "-- UN PICCOLO PASSO MARATERA VESSIER

22 marzo GIORHATA INTERNAZIONALE

DEI PLANETANI the second second second

18 - 19 aprile

SELV CONVECTOR DEL PLANETARI ITALIANI

10 - 12 agosto 18 - 19 aprile st corso to Radioastrachemia dai

ENATA OSSERVATIVA

8 - 10 maggio colse respective a pournea

**DELL'ASTRONUMA** 

SCADERZA PRESENTADONE RELAZION AL XUE CONGRESSO HAZIONALE UNI

18 - 19 - 20 sette 22 - 24 ma STAR PARTY DI FORCE CANAPINE (PG) STAR PARTY SAINT BARTHÉLENY (AU)

24 - 27 set 30 - 31 maggio MEETING GELLA SEZIONE COVETE XLII CONGRESSO DELL'EMIONE ASTROPILI MALLAND E PROGETTIE CARA

19 - 21 glugno

PERMIN UNMO.

26 - 30 luglio

XVI SEMINARIO NAZIONALE DEI URDEWATT SOLAR 19 - 26 Juglio Settemana dell'Astrochoma e 21

TING GAD SUI PIANETI EXTRASOLARI 16 - 17 - 18 Ott XVII CONVECHO NAZIONALE DEL CAS GRUPPO ASTRONOMIA DIGITALE

9 - 10 - 11 ottobre

2009

17 otto GIORHATA HAZIOHALE **ULLINABURALISENTO LUBRINOSE** 

23 - 25 ottobre coase arsion/2016 pt

1CARA 2009 ARCEAN

#### 17 no

LA BUTTE DI GALILE

### every month:

#### meetings

courses

public events

star parties

in all italian cities.

calendario	<u>UAI 20</u>	10
9 - 17 gennaio Vaga IV. Sele franks de Veler pr falles auser d'hiel de la de la gene. Tables auser d'hiel de la de la gene.	22 maggio te tette d'Ester, sont carrotte artistat militat effetere altre attitute of parts. Tautoregenerate	23 - 2 Tall Company Address of the
5 febbraio cate as r. at us or they be contactor eigen and rad or steppe and a solution of the second restard and with solutions of the second restard and with solutions of the second restard and	4 giugno ale un rotat un costal bei restituces seperit del re coggi eneres interde ant d'internet restitut, rest autoration d'internet restitute.	1 otto
27 febbraio Legi Mari 2014 para Chernata a antara di Archi (1, Maria pagara di unteresta an antari di Archi (1, Archi (1, Archi (1, Maria (1, antari di Archi)), Carali (1, Archi (1, Maria (1, 1))) Legi Maria (1, 1), Archi (1, 1), Archi (1, 1), Archi (1, 1)) Legi Maria (1, 1), Archi	11 - 13 giugno Terreny et feise Despis (R), f. 100 m an millione attention antenna feis on all legel attention millione attention attention terren attention	9 otto
28 febbraio Materiale de Constante Martine prese Parte de La constante d'España de Seguit	2 lugio ade está de la compañía has contrateres especié está an el compañía may de la defenica en la terra de la compañía ante contrateres del filosos de la defenicación a como el terra de la compañía de la defenicación de la compañía de la defenicación de la	9 - 10
5 marzo etc. 1.3 det en 13.0 de en 13.0 Des estadarios especié est, en degle forte estadarios especié est, en degle marca estadarios de Carlos de Laborational marca estadarios de Carlos de Laborational marca estadarios de Carlos de Laborational	11 Iuglio Information State, calific real Tormer fredher Verger um - State, forsite all manual for Profession Marcinetterscome paint	15 - 1 THE LANSING THE AND
12 - 14 marzo "Its cod", grade martine Trade 1 pil defer i de imp ografierete pil artefil ment de insport forste pil artefil ment de insport forste for artefil artefil	26 - 30 Juglio Traté Mice d'Athenesi à fait tertiery All the const dimen	15-1
performance admits a final second company of the property of the property of the property of the property of the performance of	23 - 25 luglio	di Bassida (k Asservata ka serres seler Mp-desta
21 marzo	essectation d'actual per proporte internationel declaufe el modifia actualita inducato la persec	29 - 3

TIC Calls and 21.20 alls are 22

10 - 12 agosta 16 - 18 aprile

23 - 25 aprile

to take of territories, or the or relation of the balance in the second

novemb

13 novembre

ten a fine Maure in Bruch (

in inf \$42 - 5

of \$1.25 pile dis \$2.2

19 - 12 5

the loss of least an

a fartfi nalle Badin 10 pti ette

13 - 15 agosto

Ulteriori informazioni sul

Ulteriori informazioni sul sito UAI www.uai.it

**FUL ASTRONOMIA** 

31 luglio - 1 agosto LE NOTTI DELLA LUNA

30 oti re - 1 novem

#### 27 - 30 agosto

OSSERVIAMO LE LEUNDI

## Some experiences

- during a public event we noticed that children and young people are much more aware of their parents who confuse astronomy with astrology (return to illiteracy)
- # during a public lecture the most frequently asked question is what are the black holes, but most people don't know where the polar star is...
- Italians are dominated by the bad teacher: television. Many TV programs tend to make things mysterious: we are surrounded by UFOs, the Celts or the Druids have certainly had an effect on us, some stellar alignments clearly show a hidden truth ...
- \* These are the main questions and often certainties of the Italian people!

**Emilio Sassone Corsi** 

**UAI President** 

presidente@uai.it