Wednesday 2020 May 6
Beginning at h. 4:00 p.m.

In the Commentariolus (ca. 1508–1514) Copernicus claims that in order to solve the problems of astronomy seven mostly heliocentric petitiones quas axiomata vocant should be granted. My question is: What exactly has Copernicus in mind when he mentions these “postulates, called axioms”? What is their nature? And on what model were they fashioned?

I will argue that Copernicus’s understanding of postulates or axioms (or hypotheses, principles, assumptions, as he also calls them in De revolutionibus) is of a Platonist origin. More specifically, I believe that when writing about petitiones quas axiomata vocant Copernicus relied on Proclus’ Commentary on Plato’s Timaeus, which fits very well into his predominantly Platonist philosophical orientation as I argued in my book, Copernicus, Platonist Astronomer-philosopher: Cosmic order, Motion of the Earth and the Scientific Revolution.

Workshop held on Google Meet
The link will be provided to the registered participants.
Contact: rodolfo.garau@unive.it

Interactive Online Seminar with mandatory registration
ERC EarlyModernCosmology
The Nature of Copernicus’s Hypotheses
Matiaz Vesel
Institute of Philosophy, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana

Introduction by
prof. Pietro Daniel Omodeo

Guest hosted by the ERC EarlyModernCosmology GA 725883