



Logos et scientia

Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion

Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the University of Zagreb

Jordanovac 110, P.O. box 169, HR-10000 Zagreb, <https://cepozir.ffrz.hr/>

Conference of the Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion

First [CePOZiR Conference](https://cepozir.ffrz.hr/) – 2025

Religion and Society

The Relationship between Science and Religion

Science and Society

EXPLORING RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

INVITED ▪ LECTURE

Dr [Boris Kožnjak](#)

• *Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb*

Contributions of the Benedictine Order to the Development of Experimental Natural Science

The beginnings of natural science are often portrayed as a sudden emergence during the "scientific revolution" of the 16th and 17th centuries. However, historians, philosophers, and sociologists of science point to the continuous development of the natural sciences from the Renaissance back to the late Middle Ages. Despite this, early medieval science remains insufficiently studied. This lecture situates the roots of the "scientific revolution" precisely in the early Middle Ages, a period often mistakenly perceived as one of stagnation and decline, with particular emphasis on the role of Saint Benedict and the Benedictine order. Their groundbreaking understanding of physical labor fundamentally differed from the ancient Greco-Roman approach, which – though rich in theoretical and mathematical knowledge as well as technological innovations – did not give rise to experimental natural science. This was due to certain philosophical, theological, and social obstacles that were effectively removed by the Benedictine historical shift.