

**Guest speaker:** Prof. Francesca D'Alessandro Behr

**Title:** “Becoming Visible”: Stories of Women in Science

**Abstract:** Beginning with an exemplary case study which features the text written by a female physician during the Middle Ages, transitioning to the Renaissance and eventually proceeding towards the modern age, in this presentation I will illustrate the accomplishments but also the challenges of women engaged in scientific research. Among other things, I will provide some examples of how sometimes gender stereotypes, discrimination, and silence have shaped not only the construction of women’s career, but also the place of their intellectual achievements in history.



**Biography:** Francesca D'Alessandro Behr, a native of Italy, is a Professor of Italian and Classical Studies at the University of Houston in Texas where she teaches courses on Italian and Latin literature and language. Her research is similarly oriented on both fields. Her book on Lucan, *Feeling History: Lucan, Stoicism and the Aesthetics of Passion* appeared in 2007 and monograph *Arms and the Woman: Classical Tradition and Women Writers in the Venetian Renaissance* has come out in 2018. Her interests cover epic, classical reception, Renaissance studies, gender studies and translation studies. Between 2015 and 2020 she has been a member of the COMITES-Houston and is currently a board member of Texas Scientific Italian Community (TSIC). In 2014, Giorgio Napolitano, at the time president of the Republic of Italy, has bestowed upon her the honor of the knighthood of the order “Stella d’Italia” for her committed service to promoting Italian culture and language abroad.