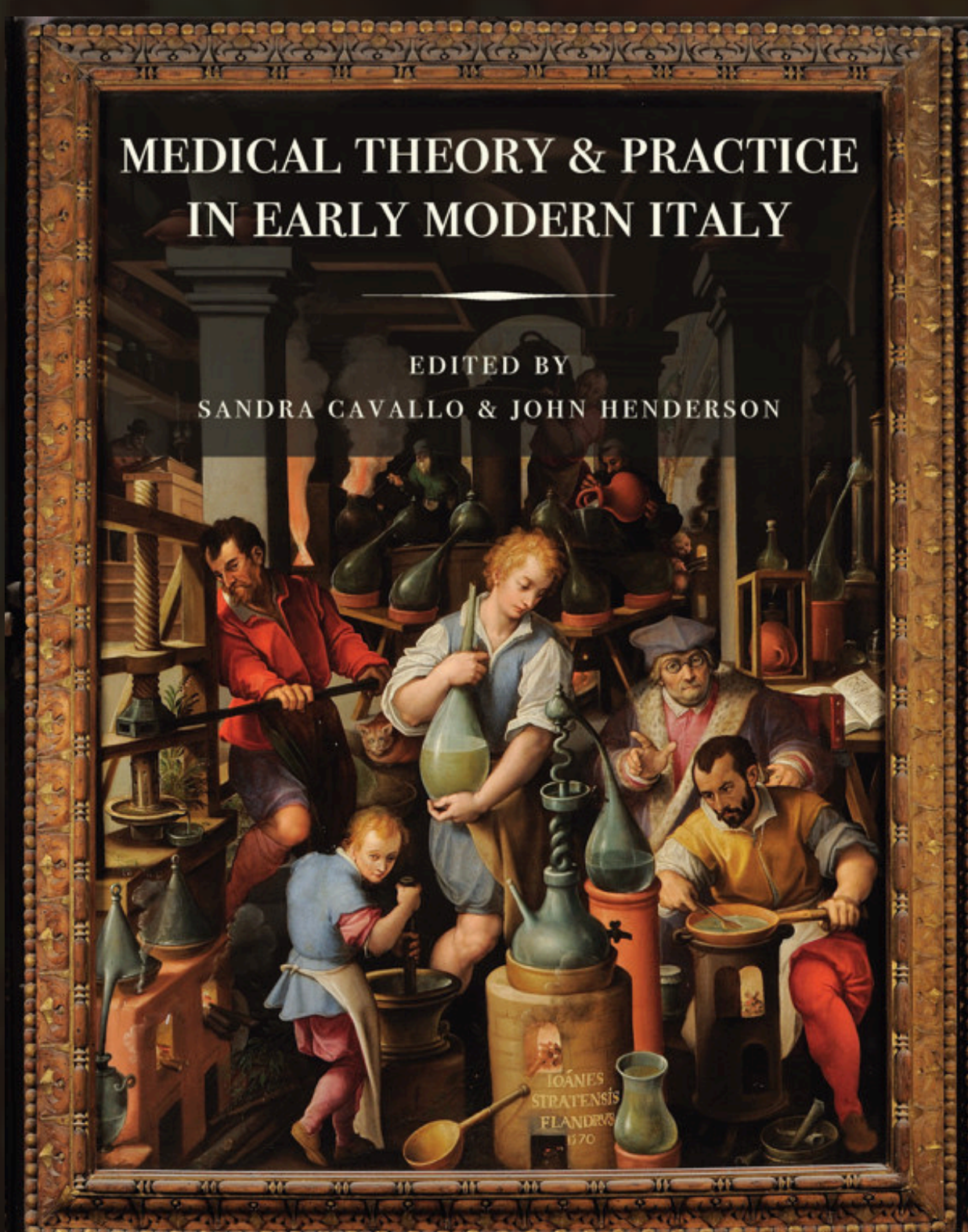


**BOOK
PRESENTATION**

**5:00 PM
12 MAY 2026**

MEDICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE IN EARLY MODERN ITALY

**EDITED BY SANDRA CAVALLO & JOHN HENDERSON
BREPOLS/HARVEY MILLER (2025)**



PROGRAM

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This volume brings together scholars at the forefront of the latest developments in the history of medicine in Italy. In recent years, the traditional separation between studies of medical theory and studies of medical practice has increasingly given way to a more nuanced approach that problematizes the relationship between these fields, which is too often seen as mechanical. Building on these recent trends, this book sheds new light on the complex ways in which medical knowledge and medical practice interacted in a period characterized by the rise of empiricism and the challenges raised by the need to incorporate novel drugs and unfamiliar diseases into the classic paradigms of professional medicine. Focusing on a range of themes — bodies and diseases, medical treatment, pharmacy and public health — chapters in this volume challenge ingrained scholarly accounts of medical theory, highlight areas of innovation in medical treatment arising from vernacular practice, hospital experimentation, and the study of inanimate things, and explore the impact of these novelties on the more conservative official pharmacopoeias. At the same time these essays remind us that medical innovation was not an independent process, but was also the product of commercial dynamics, political interests and religious and charitable discourses.