



# Caffè-Scienza Firenze

per chiacchierare, discutere, incontrarsi, capire

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Wednesday August 9th, 2011 at 14:00

Lunch hall, Electronic department, Gdansk University of Technology

## Looking for the Second Foundation

In collaboration with CoNan – Computational Nanotechnology - Gdansk University of Technology and University of Warsaw, Science Cafe of Science Festival

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In the '40s Asimov wrote the first three volumes of the Foundation cycle. At the beginning of the decline of the Galactic Empire, Hari Seldon, using his invention (the psycho-history) was able to set up two Foundations at the extreme ends of the galaxy. The first one was public and specialized in technology, while the second was secret. It was formed by mathematicians, and expected to forecast and influence future events in order to reduce the chaos period after the collapse to only 1000 years instead of the expected 30000.

The psycho-history consists of equations which model the behaviour of the human population. Until a few months ago this seemed only a fantasy, but now an initiative of the European Union (FuturICT <http://www.futurict.ethz.ch/FuturICT>) that should take care to make their own measurements and simulations, or to avert planetary prevent crises is being discussed. In short, the psycho-history in action.

Is it possible to measure and simulate human behaviour? Is it easier to predict the behaviour of an individual or that of a crowd? What about free will? And can a forecasting system work in a public way, when everyone knows its predictions?

Incontri a ingresso libero organizzati dall'Associazione Culturale Caffè-Scienza con la collaborazione dell'Istituto dei Sistemi Complessi del CNR, del Centro per lo Studio di Dinamiche Complesse, Università di Firenze, degli Assessorati alla Cultura ed all'Università, Ricerca e Politiche Giovanili del Comune di Firenze, e con il patrocinio del Comune di Firenze. Partecipa al progetto SciCafè – messa in rete del caffè-scienza europei – dell'Unione Europea ([www.scicafe.eu](http://www.scicafe.eu))



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