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| Livello bibliografico   | Monografia   |
| Note generali           | Description based upon print version of record.  |
| Nota di bibliografia    | Includes bibliographical references and index.   |
| Nota di contenuto       | An Extraordinary Event in 1732 -- "Querelle des femmes" and Debates on the "Woman Question" -- Women in Science and Medicine in Europe Prior to the Eighteenth Century -- Laura Bassi: Her Education and Her Marriage -- The Slow Start of Laura Bassi's Scientific Career and the Bolognese Community's Response to her Work -- A Transition from the "Old" to the New Science -- Scientific Works by Laura Bassi and Giuseppe Veratti -- Laura Bassi and her Networks (1732-1745) -- |

**Sommario/riassunto**

This book presents the extraordinary story of a Bolognese woman of the settecento. Laura Maria Caterina Bassi (1711-1778) defended 49 Theses at the University of Bologna on April 17, 1732 and was awarded a doctoral degree on May 12 of the same year. Three weeks before her defense, she was made a member of the Academy of Sciences in Bologna. On June 27 she defended 12 additional Theses. Several of the 61 Theses were on physics and other science topics. Laura was drawn by the philosophy of Newton at a time when most scientists in Europe were still focused on Descartes and Galen. This last set of Theses was to encourage the University of Bologna to provide a lectureship to Laura, which they did on October 29, 1732. Although quite famous in her day, Laura Bassi is unfortunately not remembered much today. This book presents Bassi within the context of the century when she lived and worked, an era where no women could attend university anywhere in the world, and even less become a professor or a member of an academy. Laura was appointed to the Chair of experimental physics in 1776 until her death. Her story is an amazing one. Laura was a mother, a wife and a good scientist for over 30 years. She made the transition from the old science to the new very early on in her career. Her work was centered on real problems that the City of Bologna needed to solve. It was an exciting time of discovery and she was at the edge of it all the way. Cover Image: Courtesy of Bononia University Press, from Marta Franceschini's *Laura Bassi Minerva bolognese*, illustrated by Alessandro Battara, 2011 © Bononia University Press, 2011 Portrait of Laura Maria Caterina Bassi at the Palazzo Poggi in Bologna. The illustration includes her thesis and certificate and a globe. The little girl is Laura as a child, a unique girl who lives in a world of her own, where the objects she fantasizes about are not toys or dolls but scientific instruments, tools, geometric shapes. In her mind, she sees the world she will live in, as a woman who will shape history; she is already living and sparking, almost like magic blended with science.

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