

# Conoscenza e libertà

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## *Freedom and Knowledge*

*Abstract:* This paper analyses some key issues about the so called “philosophical freedom”, starting from Milton’s *Areopagitica* and his defence of Galileo against Inquisition. We set a comparison between Milton’s idea of free society and the concept of toleration sketched by Baruch Spinoza in his *Tractatus Theologico-politicus* (1670). The aim of this comparison is to build a general model (“Milton-Spinoza model”) in which the free speech is linked to the growth of knowledge. In our opinion, and following Antonio Labriola’s intuition, the academic world can still represent a virtual community in which the criticism is the fundamental characteristic of University way of working. Besides, that model offers an effective paradigm in the effort to achieve more liberties.

*Keywords:* Free Society, Criticism and growth of knowledge, University, Galileo, Milton, Spinoza, Labriola.

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