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Robert Hooke's Contributions to a Theory of Universal Gravitation

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Robert Hooke contributed decisively to the development of science in the 17th century. He left us a legacy in astronomy, mechanics, geology, chemistry and even meteorology. This author was forgotten for several decades, partly to the prominence that Isaac Newton, his peer, acquired. The controversy between these two scientists concerning the creation of the Law of Universal Gravitation has been the subject of several studies. In this paper we will revisit the legacy of Robert Hooke, focusing on his contributions for the study of the gravitational force before the Principia were published and known as the masterpiece of science of the seventeenth century.

Presenter(s): MONTEIRO (ONLINE), Isadora (Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa)