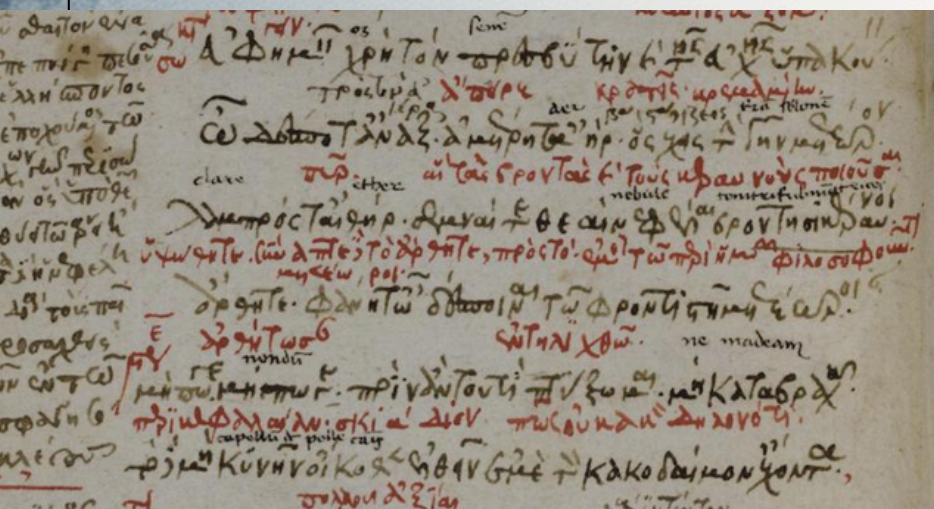


# ***Risus in ore doctorum:*** Aristophanes' *Nubes* in Latin Dress

**by Micol Muttini, PhD (University of Siena)**

21 January 2026  
6pm

Ágnes-Heller-Haus  
1st floor, SR 6



The fifteenth century marked a decisive moment in the Western rediscovery of Greek literature, and Aristophanes played a striking role in this revival. This lecture examines the earliest

Latin engagements with the *Clouds* through three key figures: Guarino Veronese, Alessandro of Terra d'Otranto, and Andrea Alciato. Their manuscripts, ranging from interlinear glosses to pedagogical translations and poetic rewritings, reveal how Renaissance translators first encountered Aristophanes and navigated the challenges posed by his linguistic creativity, cultural allusions, obscenity, and humour.

I will explore the strategies humanists employed to transpose a fifth-century Athenian comedy into the world of Renaissance Italy, treating translators as cultural mediators. How did they manage to create a new Latin text that remained anchored to Aristophanes while adapting it to the values, expectations, and intellectual horizons of the receiving culture?