



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

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**From *ars dictaminis* to humanism:
old questions and new approaches**

Tuesday, 17.06.2014, 18:00

Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“, Langer Weg 11, SR 1)

The relationship between the evolution of the medieval Latin writing ideology known as *ars dictaminis* (end of the XI-XV c) and the birth and rise of humanistic practices has been the object of intense debates, particularly illustrated by the works of P. O. Kristeller and R. G. Witt. From a ‘matrix theory’ that would see the *ars* as the cradle of humanism to a ‘rupture model’ that places the law- and Bible- flavored *dictamen* in opposition to the neo-classical humanist Latin, the debates have so far concentrated on the transition between the two forms. Here we will try to clarify the different issues at stake behind the grand narrative of this substitution process. Three particular problems will be identified in order to be better examined: the diachronic birth of humanistic forms as a concrete stylistic rupture from *ars dictaminis*; the synchronic study of the transitional forms between *ars dictaminis* and early humanism, particularly during the Trecento; and the functional affinities between *ars dictaminis* and humanist Latin at their respective apogees.