



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

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Joseph Scaliger and the Criticism of Virgilian Style

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Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“, Langer Weg 11, SR 5)

The critical practice of discerning legitimate from spurious works was one of the most important parts of early modern scholarship. In this paper, I will consider how sixteenth-century critics disputed the contents of the Virgilian canon. In the sixteenth century, the *Appendix Vergiliana* could make up more than fifty folio pages in editions of Virgil's *oeuvre*; its poems were translated and imitated all over Europe; and some of the most important debates surrounding Virgil and his cultural meaning were precisely those concerning his authorship of these poems. This paper will focus on one of the most influential texts in the history of the *Appendix*: Joseph Scaliger's edition, which in fact gave the collection its current name. To set the stage for my discussion, I will begin by considering how *Echtheitskritik* fit into early modern scholarly practice and what sort of methods Renaissance scholars prescribed. Then, I will focus on Scaliger's commentary, exploring how he conceives Virgilian style and uses it as the key to identify genuine works. This commentary is a surprisingly little studied, but fascinating chapter in Virgil's early modern reception.