



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

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**The *Centones ex Virgilio* by Lelio Capilupi (1497-1560): a
Neo-Latin case of recomposition of Virgil**

Tuesday, 28.04.2015, 18:00

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



A cento is a particular kind of literary composition, assembled according to precise rules, exclusively by stitching together half-lines from the great authors of the past, usually Virgil in Latin and Homer in Greek. These literary patchworks represent a game of erudition and memory between the author and the reader. They are attested for the first time in Late Antiquity and reach their zenith in the V century A.D. Thereafter, especially from the XIV until the XVIII century, the cento form continued to fascinate writers and readers of different languages and in various countries. After Late Antiquity, the first high point in cento production is attributable to Lelio Capilupi (Mantua, 1497-1560), who gave patchwork poetry a second birth and new features.

This paper will investigate the figure of Capilupi as a pioneer of this new kind of centos, characterised by their political background and by their strong connections to contemporary historical events. The focus will be on Capilupi's cento *De vita monachorum* (1543), a paradigmatic case for Neo-Latin political centos, and a text which offers new perspectives on the investigation of centos from a historical, as well as from a literary and a philological point of view.