



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut  
Neulateinische Studien

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cordially invites you to a talk by

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(University of Cambridge)

**On Uncovering an Epic of Discovery: the Sixth Neo-Latin Columbus Epic, José Manuel Peramás' *De Invento Novo Orbe Inductoque Illuc Christi Sacrificio* (1777)**

**Tuesday, 05.05.2015, 18:00**

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

The early modern subgenre of the so-called ‘Columbus epic’ does precisely as it says on the tin: poetry on the subject of Christopher Columbus’ maiden transatlantic voyage of 1492 and the ‘discovery’ of America to which this gave rise. Until recently, there were believed to be just five Neo-Latin examples of such epic, all composed in Europe in a period spanning approximately 1580-1730. However, as it has recently turned out, there is in fact a sixth example: the *De Invento Novo Orbe Inductoque Illuc Christi Sacrificio* (Faenza, 1777) by Catalan-born Jesuit José Manuel Peramás. Not only does Peramás’ inclusion in the canon extend the period during which Neo-Latin Columbus epics were thought to have written by almost fifty years, but represents an important contribution – or challenge – to the canon in a number of other respects as well: for instance – to name only the most salient example – Peramás is alone among Neo-Latin Columbus epicists in actually having *been* to the continent in question. After introducing the poem and the circumstances of its composition, contemporary reception and (re)discovery, I shall proceed to examination of precisely those elements which make the poem so unique and how these might be brought to bear on its literary interpretation. The American shield ekphrasis of the third book of the epic will provide the case study (test case) for some of these ideas.