



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut  
Neulateinische Studien

*cordially invites you to a talk by*

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**Nicholas of Modruš, ‘The Glory of Illyria’  
Humanist Patriotism and Self-Fashioning in Renaissance Rome**

Thursday, **21.05.2015**, 18:00

SR2, Zentrum für Alte Kulturen (Atrium), Langer Weg 11



By 1463 the expansion of the Ottoman Empire thoroughly changed the landscape of South-Eastern Europe, wiping out the Bulgarian, Byzantine, Serbian, and Bosnian political elites, and turning Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia into a border zone. At the same time these three *regna* witnessed the diffusion of humanism and the emergence of a local branch of the republic of letters. Under the influence of Italian humanism, local intellectuals developed a shared national, Illyrian, identity, and used humanist propaganda strategies to plead with the popes, doges and emperors to help their *patria* in its war effort against the Turk. In order to provide a window into their efforts, the lecture will present the results of my forthcoming biography of Nicholas of Modruš, an ambitious humanist bishop and papal diplomat, who after a career in Croatia and at the Hungarian court eventually came to establish himself as one of the main representatives of the Illyrian national community in Rome during the 1460s and 1470s. The lecture will explore his library (one of the first collections included in the Apostolic library), and preserved works, and thus focus on the questions of his humanism and patriotism.