



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut  
Neulateinische Studien

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cordially invites you to a talk by

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**Past and Future under a Fascist Obelisk:  
*Aurelio Amatucci's Codex fori Mussolini***

**Wednesday, 28.10.2015, Atrium SR 5**

The year is 1932. In Rome, the Fascist leader Benito Mussolini unveils a giant obelisk of white marble, bearing the Latin inscription MVSSOLINI DVX. Invisible to the cheering crowds, a metal box lies immured in the obelisk's base. It contains a few gold coins and, written on a piece of parchment, a Latin text: the *Codex fori Mussolini*.

The *Codex*, composed by the classical scholar Aurelio Giuseppe Amatucci (1867-1960), presents a carefully constructed account of the rise of Italian Fascism and its leader, Benito Mussolini. Placed under the obelisk with future excavation and rediscovery in mind, it was an attempt at directing the reception of Italian Fascism in the distant future.

In our talk, we discuss the text from a number of perspectives: the significance of Amatucci's choice of language, which also throws new light on the important role of Latin in Italian Fascist culture; the text's appropriation of Roman antiquity and use of specific literary models for the representation of Fascist ideology; and the relationship between the *Codex* and its physical surroundings.