



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

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**Pietro Illicino's Assassins:
Literary Works in the Service of a Careerist's Life**

Thursday, **01.06.2017**, 18:00

SR5, Zentrum für Alte Kulturen (Atrium), Langer Weg 11

By 1566, Suleiman II had split off a huge area from the Kingdom of Hungary and a large part of the remaining Christian territories of the country became war zones due to the unstable borders. Many of the clerical and official leaders of the country had perished in the battle of Mohács (1526), and then the outbreak of civil war as a result of the Hungarian king's death as well as the fall of the capital Buda (1541) paralyzed the operation of what remained of the kingdom. The circumstances seem not in the least ideal for the building of an intellectual career within the church or state, especially not for a foreigner. However these events, and the fall of the intellectual layer of the medieval Hungarian kingdom, completely reorganized the power and cultural relations in East Central Europe. In this talk, I will present how the Siensese Pietro Illicino (Petrus Illicinus) strove for a church career in the war-torn country, and what kind of literary and personal strategies he applied in the hope of a lucrative church office next to the war zone. The lecture will outline the adventurous life of this Italian intellectual in the triangle of Cracow, Trnava, and Olomouc, and at the same time attempt to map the network of his humanist friends and foes. The stations of his life are clearly reflected in his pragmatist literary works, which were produced in various genres to advance his career. Through his works, we might catch a glimpse of an unscrupulous intellectual careerist, someone who would do anything for a fruitful church office, and because of his arrogance and hot-temper, was placed under house arrest and imprisoned, as well as excommunicated and almost assassinated.