



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut  
Neulateinische Studien

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## **Desiree Arbo**

(Fellow at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute)

### **Jesuit Exile Literature and the Guarani Missions of Paraguay:**

#### **The Case of José Manuel Peramás'**

#### ***De administratione guaranica comparata ad Rempublicam Platonis commentarius***

The Guarani missions were among the most famous endeavours of the Jesuits in the New World, and the subject of a significant corpus of Latin literature written by Jesuits after their exile from Spain and its overseas territories in 1767. Based in Faenza, the Catalan Jesuit José Manuel Peramás produced several Latin works, including an epic poem and two sets of biographies of Jesuit missionaries. This paper examines the themes, sources and agenda of his final work, a Latin prose treatise that compared the Guarani administration to the ideal republic of Plato: *De administratione guaranica comparata ad Rempublicam Platonis commentarius*. Scholars have devoted much attention to this treatise as a historical source or as utopian literature on the myth of the Noble Savage, but they often treated it as a stand-alone work and with little consideration of its Latin sources. This paper re-situates the work of Peramás within the context of exiled Jesuit literary activity. By close reading of certain passages (as part of a translation project currently in preparation), this paper will engage more closely with Peramás' use of sources.

Date and Venue:

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 6pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 5  
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