



**Vincenzo Lavenia**  
(University of Bologna)



**The Pope's Heresy.**

**Some Aspects of a Long Controversy in the Early Modern Age**

Who is the sovereign of the Church if the pope is suspected or accused of heresy? Who can judge and depose him? What right of intervention belongs to the council or to the cardinals in such a serious case? The shadow of a deviant pope – which has re-emerged in these days against Bergoglio – has accompanied the history of the Church since the early centuries as the flip side of the progressive affirmation of the primacy of the pontiffs. The controversies of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and of the conciliarist era are well known. The conflict on the infallibility of the popes will divide the Church again in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during the First Vatican Council. But what can we say about the early modern age? The intervention will reconstruct this not-too-familiar story, focusing on some questions: 1. the accusations against Julius II in the times of the Holy League (with the late censorship against the jurist Filippo Decio); 2. the treatises that flourished after the convocation of the Council of Trent (in particular those of Cardinal Reginald Pole, suspected of heterodoxy); 3. the enactment of the *Cum ex Apostolatus officio* by Paul IV (1559), which entrusted the preventive judgment on the candidates to the papal throne to the Holy Office; 4. the control over the writing of the first stories of the popes; 5. The conflicts of the 17<sup>th</sup> century between the Apostolic See and the Spanish and French monarchies.

Date and Venue:  
Wednesday, 22nd May 2019, 6pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 2  
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck