



The Research Center Ancient Worlds Studies and Archaeologies (AWOSA), the ERC project *Noscemus*, the Institute for Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, together with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin Studies cordially invite you to a talk by

**Kevin Chang**  
(Academia Sinica, Tapei, Taiwan)

on

## **The Dissertation as a Genre of Scholarly Publication in Early Modern Europe**

Every academic today has written a dissertation, and is confident in his/her knowledge of its subject. The form that we take for granted today, however, is very different from that of the early modern dissertation. Today's dissertations have a very small circulation and each one is of interest to only a small number of specialists. In early modern Europe, however, dissertations circulated widely. They were discussed in the correspondence of prominent scholars, translated into different languages, and reported or reviewed in major scholarly or literary journals. They were, indeed, so popular that they even enjoyed exclusive dedicated reviews or digests – the forerunner of today's dissertation abstracts. Celebrated scholars in Protestant Germany and Sweden devoted much time to the production of dissertations, often on behalf of their students. Meanwhile, the Republic of Letters in these regions and beyond – including Catholic countries and Britain – read them with great interest.

This talk sheds light on the significance of the dissertation as a genre of publication in the early modern period, and analyzes the ecosystem of its production and consumption that generated and sustained the popularity of the genre. Moreover, looking back at the history of the dissertation, this talk invites the audience to reflect on what constitutes the scholar's profile and that of his/her scholarship.



**Date and Venue:**  
Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 6 p.m.  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 1  
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck