



Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung
Universität Wien, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien



Collegium Hungaricum, Wien
Hollandstraße 4, 1020 Wien

INVITATION TO BOOK LAUNCH

244. Institutsseminar in cooperation with Collegium Hungaricum
Thursday, 10 December 2020, 7:00 p.m. (19.00 Uhr s.t.), video conference

Per Pippin Aspaas and László Kontler

**Maximilian Hell (1720–92) and the Ends of Jesuit Science in
Enlightenment Europe**

Jesuit Studies, Vol. 27. Leiden: Brill, 2019. Open access <https://brill.com/view/title/36217>

Commentators and discussion partners:

Franz Leander Fillafer (Austrian Academy of Sciences),
Thomas Wallnig (IOG, University of Vienna)

The event can be accessed via the link:

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/2f778bd57e4d4960a32d95199c8f005b>

(for optimal function please use the browser Chrome)

The Viennese Jesuit court astronomer Maximilian Hell was a key figure in the eighteenth-century circulation of knowledge. He was already famous by the time of his celebrated 1769 expedition for the observation of the transit of Venus in northern Scandinavia. However, the 1773 suppression of his order forced Hell to develop ingenious strategies of accommodation to changing international and domestic circumstances. Through a study of his career in local, regional, imperial, and global contexts, this book sheds new light on the complex relationship between the Enlightenment, Catholicism, administrative and academic reform in the Habsburg monarchy, and the practices and ends of cultivating science in the Republic of Letters around the end of the first era of the Society of Jesus.

Greeting:

Iván Bertényi (Collegium Hungaricum)

Moderation:

Borbala Zsuzsanna Török (IOG)

Per Pippin Aspaas is Senior Academic Librarian at UiT the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø. Trained in Latin Philology as well as holding a PhD in History of Science, his research interests cover several branches of science and intellectual culture in Early Modern Europe. In English, he has published articles such as “The Auroral Zone versus the Zone of Learning: A Brief History of Early Modern Theories on the Aurora Borealis” (2013), “The use of Latin and the European Republic of Letters: Change and Continuity in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries” (2014), “Did Astronomy Constitute a Denominationally Neutral Space within the Republic of Letters? An Outline for the Use of Visualization Tools in the Study of Astronomical Correspondence” (with Katalin Pataki, 2019). Aspaas is co-editor of *1700-tal: Nordic Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* and chairman of the Norwegian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

László Kontler is professor of history and Head of the Doctoral Program at the Department of History, Central European University, Budapest/Vienna. His research and publications range across the history of political and historical thought, translation and reception in the history of ideas, and the production and exchange of knowledge in the early modern period, mainly the Enlightenment. His English-language books include *A History of Hungary* (1999/2000) and *Translations, Histories, Enlightenments: William Robertson in Germany, 1760-1795* (2014). He co-edited (with Antonella Romano, Silvia Sebastiani and Zsuzsanna Borbála Török) *Negotiating Knowledge in Early Modern Empires. A Decentered View* (2014) and (with Mark Somos) *Trust and Happiness in the History of European Political Thought* (2018). He is one of the editors of the *European Review of History / Revue d'histoire européenne*.

Franz Leander Fillafer is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). His work focuses on intellectual history and the history of science in their global and regional settings, with a special emphasis on the Habsburg Monarchy from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Fillafer's recent publications include *Aufklärung habsburgisch: Staatsbildung, Wissenskultur und Geschichtspolitik in Zentraleuropa, 1750-1850* (2020); *The Worlds of Positivism. A Global Intellectual History, 1770–1930* (ed. with Johannes Feichtinger and Jan Surman, 2018), and *Josephinismus zwischen den Regimen: Eduard Winter, Fritz Valjavec und die zentraleuropäischen Historiographien im 20. Jahrhundert* (co-edited with Thomas Wallnig, 2016).

Thomas Wallnig is Privatdozent at the University of Vienna where he leads a number of research projects on early modern scholarship, intellectual history and applied digital humanities. He was co-chair of the COST Action Project "Reassembling the Republic of Letters" and is chair of the Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. During the winter semester 2020/1 he is a visiting professor at the University of Padova/IT. Recent publications: *Critical Monks. The German Benedictines, 1680-1740* (2019); *Reassembling the Republic of Letters in the Digital Age. Standards, Systems, Scholarship* (co-ed. with Howard Hotson, 2019); *Digital Eighteenth Century* (34. *Jahrbuch der OGE18*, co-ed. with Marion Romberg and Joëlle Weis, 2019).