



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

## EINLADUNG

zum 248. Institutsseminar  
am Montag, dem 31. Mai 2021, um 17 Uhr c.t., Videokonferenz

**Aaron Vanides**

(Historisches Seminar, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

### **Emperor as Audience: Speech and Silence under Sigismund of Luxembourg**

Link zur Veranstaltung (Zoom)

<https://univiennea.zoom.us/j/93950928651?pwd=d2puaXg3YkdaZE1lV0xIVkZRenJuUT09>

Guided in large part by a steady stream of new diplomatic, historiographical, and archival sources, an increasingly international body of scholars have made a number of key reassessments about Sigismund of Luxembourg in the past several years that have made our understanding of the nearly three decades of his rule far more nuanced and complex than it had previously been. The novel elements and apparent paradoxes of emperorship in the first quarter of the fifteenth century that led earlier studies from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to particularly critical assessments of Sigismund – e.g. his overextended, polycentric, and multilingual style of rulership – now seem to be precisely what makes the era of Sigismund so emblematic of and instructive for many of the political and cultural developments in and beyond Europe during the first half of the fifteenth century. Here, Dr. Vanides turns to yet another body of mostly unedited and underappreciated sources to make a case for understanding Sigismund not solely as an authority in the traditional sense, but as an audience as well. A broad cross-section of manuscripts from England to Italy and Poland to Spain contain several dozen speech acts addressed to or intended for the emperor, beginning with speeches from just before the Council of Constance and continuing into Sigismund's final years in the 1430s. Drawing on the critical terminology of late medieval literary criticism and rhetoric and focusing on a representative series of speech acts, this paper calls special attention to silence as a central trait of imperial authority under Sigismund and suggests in turn that the political culture of the fifteenth-century empire occupies a key place in the history of late medieval rhetoric.

**Aaron Vanides** studied at the University of Chicago (AB, 2010) as well as the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, and received his MA (2013), MPhil (2014) and PhD (2018) in Medieval Studies at Yale University. He was Universitätsassistent für allgemeine Geschichte des Mittelalters und historische Wissenschaften at the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz before taking up his current position as Assistent and Akademischer Rat a.Z. in the Historisches Seminar of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. In addition to his first book project on the Council of Constance and the history of speech and a Habilitationsvorhaben on *Venedig und der Norden im Spätmittelalter*, he has also been active as a translator and helped introduce the work of Kurt Flasch to an English-speaking audience with the publication of *Meister Eckhart: Philosopher of Christianity* by the Yale University Press.

**Moderation: Shane Bobrycki**

*Christian Lackner*  
Institutsdirektor