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Early Modern State Descriptions in an Interdisciplinary Perspective

International Conference Münster,
10 – 12 April 2025

Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Karl Enenkel
Dr. Lukas Reddemann

Conference venue:
Universität Münster
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Thursday, 10 April

9:00 Eva-Bettina Krems (Dean): Greetings

9:15 Introduction

A. Section „Describing and discussing ‚unusual‘ forms of government“

9:30 Marian Coman (Bucharest): An Oxymoronic Polity. Ottoman Wallachia and Early Modern English Geography

Coffee break

10:45 Lucie Storchova (Prague): Describing Tyranny: The Grand Duchy of Moscow in the Neo-Latin and vernacular literatures of the Bohemian lands (c. 1580 to 1610)

11:30 Marcela Slavikova (Prague): *Visne, Rex clementissime, privilegia cuncta regni hujus ordinibus servare?* Discussing the Bohemian Constitution of the pre-Thirty Years' War Period

Lunch break

B. Section „Between cities and states“

14:15 John Nassichuk (London, Ontario): The Description of Avignon by the Celestine Poet Claude Boudan (MS. Lat. BNF 18328)

15:00 Marianne Pade (Aarhus): The *De republica Norimbergensium libri IIII* of Erasmus Laetus (1574)

Coffee break

C. Section „Historical and utopian states as comparative probes“

16:15 Stefano Gulizia (Milan): Ramist Lycurgus: The Early Modern Debate on Sparta Across the Baltic Sea, 1593-1609

17:00 Alberto Scigliano (Turin, Bologna): Cast a Vision: Utopian Imaginations, Pseudo-Real Paradigms and Jewish Suggestions in Early Modern Europe

Friday, 11 April

D. Section „Early modern states in texts and visual media“

9:00 Thomas Maissen (Heidelberg): The illustrated state system

9:45 Lukas Reddemann (Münster): Gateways to Early Modern states: Frontispieces and illustrated title pages of 17th-ct. state descriptions

Coffee break

E. Section „Translations and shifting perspectives“

11:00 James McNamara (Innsbruck): William Camden's *Britannia*: the bounds of history and chorography in Hibernia

11:45 Armando Martins (Évora): The *Descrição do Reino de Portugal* (1610) by Duarte Nunes do Leão and the *Descriptio regni Lusitani* (1621) by António de Vasconcelos: twists and turns of a translation

Lunch Break

F. Section „Describing states in times of crisis“

14:30 Elke Katharina Wittich (Hannover): „(...) daß in Kriegen die Landtaffeln (...) hochnötig seyen“ – Wilhelm Dilich's *Ungarische Chronica* of 1600 and its visual media

15:15 Simon Franzen (Tromsø): Spaces of Violence in the “Lands of Midnight” – Approaching the State Description “Sedes et origo belli Dano-Suecici etc.” from a Spatial-Historical Perspective

Coffee break

16:15 Simon Mallas (Mainz): Know your enemy – Reasons, functions and discursive impact of state descriptions of the Ottoman Empire in early modern travelogues

Conference Dinner



Saturday, 12 April

G. Section „Towards a global perspective“

9:00 Rasmus Gottschalck (Copenhagen): The Elzevir *respublica* volume on Denmark and Norway, 1629

09:45 Kaarina Rein (Tartu): State Descriptions in the Disputations and Orations at the Early Modern University of Tartu

Coffee break

11:00 Volker Bauer (Wolfenbüttel): Scaling state descriptions: The construction of global contemporaneity in the *Rengerische Staaten* (1704–1718)

Concluding remarks