

The conference aims to shed light on the often-marginalised role of the mendicants within the *studia humanitatis*. The contribution of religious orders to humanism has been noted in the historical sciences for decades, but in art history it awaits further research and some clarification with regard to the reciprocal relationship between orders and urban elites – in other words, the intertwining of convents and the city.

In the context of the history of ideas and moral philosophy of the 14th and 15th centuries, one disputed the best form of state and negotiated cultural values. In their debates, civic cultural identity and construction of history were at stake. It might be assumed that the mendicants helped to shape a political culture that was still being negotiated in the Quattrocento and that they were actively involved in the evocation of a certain image of the city or a community. The ideas, above all from philosophical and theological contexts, developed in the *studia* of the convents in the context of disputations between religious scholars and humanist laymen. Such ideas were able to influence the 'aesthetics of the city'. In addition to such places of knowledge exchange, sermons should be considered, by means of which ideas generated in the *studia* were passed on to a broad urban public.

On the one hand the participation of the mendicant orders in humanist discourses in the context of the *valori civici* should be highlighted. We thus ask how individual members of the orders acted as opinion makers, communicated and passed on ideas, and in this way shaped—directly or indirectly—the materially conceived and built body of the city. On the other hand, the focus will be on the appropriation of an 'aesthetics of *civitas*' on the part of the orders.

What role did the arts play in this reciprocal relationship between religious scholars and lay people? How did the use of certain materials, iconographic features, the conscious reception of antiquity versus local tradition, and even the construction and design of space relate to humanist discourses? And in what way did the same material aesthetics and semantic formulas in turn find their way into the 'language' of the Mendicants?

The hypothesis of the conference is the assumption that the mendicants played a significant role in the formation of an iconography of the *civitas*.

*Medificiorum quoque magnificentia & gr̄a qualis et  
quanta sit. omnibus clare compertum est.*

CONCEPT AND SCIENTIFIC  
ORGANISATION

CLAUDIA JENTZSCH AND  
KATHARINE STAHLBUHK

BIBLIOTHECA HERTZIANA –  
ISTITUTO MAX PLANCK  
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE

Via Gregoriana, 30  
00187 Rome  
www.biblhertz.it

CONTACT

MARA FREIBERG SIMMEN  
freiberg@biblhertz.it  
T. +39 06 69993 460  
RAFFAELE ROSSI  
rossi@biblhertz.it  
T. +39 06 69993 257



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# Mendicants, Humanists and the Aesthetics of the *civitas*

## Debates and Political Culture in the 14th and 15th Centuries and their Impact on Art, Architecture and Urban Space

### Conference

October 05-06, 2021



IMMAGINE: Fra Giovanni Caroli,  
Vite non nullorum fratrum Beate  
Marie Novelle, ASMN I.A.4

## Tuesday, October 5, 2021

- 14.00 | **Saluti istituzionali**  
TANJA MICHALSKY UND TRISTAN WEDDIGEN, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 14.05 | **Introduction**  
KATHARINE STAHLBUHK, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*  
CLAUDIA JENTZSCH, *Universität der Künste Berlin*  
  
Chair: LILLA MÁTYÓK-ENGEL, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 14.30 – 15.10 | **Una reggia nel convento: gli appartamenti papali di Santa Maria Novella nel cuore del Quattrocento**  
GAIA RAVALLI, *Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa / Museo Civico di Arte Antica, Pistoia*
- 15.10 – 15.50 | **Retorica umanistica e estetica delle città nella predicazione in capitolo degli ordini mendicanti (Italia, fine XIV-XV secolo)**  
CÉCILE CABY, *Sorbonne Université, Paris*
- 15.50 | **coffee break**  
  
Chair: LAURA VALTERIO, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 16.10 – 16.50 | **“Ex omni civitate Florentiae elegit”. Fra Mariano Salvini dei Servi di Maria e il rinnovamento artistico della Santissima Annunziata di Firenze**  
MARCO MASSONI, *Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa*  
EMMANUELE CARLETTI, *Università degli Studi Roma Tre*
- 16.50 – 17.30 | **Humanismus light? Karmeliterpredigten des späten Mittelalters und ihr Einfluss auf die civitas**  
RALF LÜTZELSCHWAB, *Freie Universität Berlin*
- 17.30 | **coffee break**  
  
Chair: ELISABETTA SCIROCCO, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 18.00 | **I frati e la città medievale: un network internazionale di studiosi, di idee e di progetti di ricerca**  
SILVIA BELTRAMO, *Politecnico di Torino*  
GIANMARIO GUIDARELLI, *Università degli Studi di Padova*

Participation possible on site or/and via zoom. Further details on: <https://www.biblhertz.it/it/events>

## Wednesday, October 6, 2021

- Chair: GIOSUÈ FABIANO, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 09.00 – 09.30 | **‘How the Grandeur of the City Lures’: Verbal Reciprocity in Shaping and Perceiving Renaissance Florence**  
PETER HOWARD, *Australian Catholic University, Melbourne*
- 09.30 – 10.10 | **Giovanni Caroli and the New Humanist Aesthetics**  
AMOS EDELHEIT, *Maynooth University of Ireland*
- 10.10 – 10.50 | **‘L’Aquila, magnifica citade’: fashioning an Observant Franciscan Centre in the Kingdom of Naples**  
PAVLA LANGER, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 10.50 | **coffee break**  
  
Chair: SIETSKE FRANSEN, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 11.10 – 11.50 | **Zur Bedeutung der wissenschaftlichen Bemühungen des Dominikanerordens für die Überlieferung des Aristoteles-textes: Albert der Große, Wilhelm von Moerbeke und die Schrift *De motu animalium***  
PETER ISEPY, *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München / Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani, Venezia*
- 11.50 – 12.20 | **Giannozzo Manetti’s Bible Translation: A Case Study of humanist Greek Scholarship and Translation from Florence to Naples**  
ANNET DEN HAAN, *Universiteit Utrecht*
- 12.30 | **lunch**  
  
Chair: ADRIAN BREMENKAMP, *Bibliotheca Hertziana, Roma*
- 13.30 – 14.10 | **Contra Averroistas. Dominican Images against the Islamic Heritage of the European Philosophy**  
LUIS RUEDA GALÁN, *Universidad de Jaén / École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris*
- 14.10 – 14.50 | **Francescani e *nación* catalana in Sardegna. Cantieri spirituali del gotico e comunità di *repladors* nella ridefinizione dell’identità politica dell’Isola**  
MARIA VITTORIA SPISSU, *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II / Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna*
- 14.50 | **Final Discussion**