

**CfP: *Alma Mater Benedictina Latina* (AMBL) - 1st interdisciplinary workshop
Neo-Latin writings at Salzburg's Benedictine University (1622-1810): networks –
models – contexts**

University of Salzburg, January 15-16, 2026

Workshop announcement and aims

We are delighted to announce the opening of submissions for the 1st interdisciplinary AMBL workshop to be held at the **University of Salzburg** on **15 and 16 January 2026**. This workshop aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue between researchers at all career-stages (including PhD candidates) from the fields of Neo-Latin, early modern history, law studies and legal history, philosophy, theology, and digital humanities. Contributions will take the form of 30mins presentations followed by a respondent's comments (5mins) and an open Q&A (20-25mins).

The workshop will be centered around the Neo-Latin writings produced at Salzburg's Benedictine University (1622-1810), then "the focal point of Southern German Benedictine culture" (Lehner 2011, 36): for a succinct summary of the university's history, see Schachenmayr 2022 (cf. Brandhuber 2012 for highly readable introductory essays on a wide variety of topics). It will combine wide-ranging survey approaches with detailed case studies offering sustained engagement with individual authors and/or texts. The workshop will build towards a new appreciation of the Benedictine University's place in intellectual history and will lead to a more refined understanding of its peculiarities.

Approach and key authors/works

The 1st AMBL workshop is intended to initiate a long-term research program focused on the Neo-Latin writings produced at the Benedictine University. The sheer bulk of authors and works invites a broad survey approach aimed at collecting, classifying, and making the material accessible in a searchable online database. We propose 'genre' as a useful guiding principle to map the territory, with legal, philosophical, and theological writings (representing the university's three faculties) as well as drama, historiography (including church and monastic history), poetry, didactic materials, and occasional writings as central categories (for this approach to surveying regional Neo-Latinity, see Korenjak et al. 2012). To draw a fuller picture, however, broad survey perspectives need to be supplemented with detailed, well-documented case studies focusing on key authors (e.g. Otto Aicher, Anselm Desing, Paris Gille, Franz, Joseph, and Paul Mezger, Simon Rettenpacher) and their works.

Sections

We ask participants to prepare contributions for the three (overlapping) sections **(1) networks**, **(2) models**, and **(3) contexts**. Papers in **Section 1** offer sustained explorations of personal networks (including secular and religious dignitaries, esp. archbishops, abbots, aristocrats, the university's rectorate and professorate; patrons, printers, etc.). They primarily focus on elucidating interpersonal (power) relations, self-fashioning strategies, and the functional aspects of particular texts. Contributions to **Section 2** investigate the reception of ancient and medieval models within a 'continuity and transformation' framework. Papers in **Section 3** situate the texts within their wider intellectual, cultural, institutional, historical, religious, and literary contexts, e.g. significant events in the university's history (such as the 'sycophantic strife' of 1740/41), discourses within supra-regional learned communities, and developments in the wider European *res publica litteraria*.

Topics

Topics might include (but are not limited to):

- AMBL digital: towards a searchable database of authors and works—perspectives and challenges
- personal networks at the AMB: towards a digital dataset (for section 1)
- panegyric writings (e.g. Paris Gille's *Corona gratulatoria* [1681], on which see Brandhuber/Fussl 2020) (for section 1)
- Johann Baptist Mayr, court and academic printer—contributions to university life and relationships (for section 1)
- collected inscriptions (e.g. Aicher's *Theatrum funebre* [1675] and *Hortus variorum inscriptionum* [1676], on which see Brandhuber/Fussl 2017) (for section 1)
- university life at the AMB (e.g. as represented by inaugural, funerary, or congratulatory occasional writings, as well as in texts such as Virgilius Gleißberger's *Boleslais* [1722], on which see Klecker 2000) (for section 1)
- school and university theatre at the Benedictine University (see Witek 2009) (for section 1, 2, and 3)
- impact of Ludovico Antonio Muratori's ideas at the AMB (for the so-called 'Muratori circle', see Zlabinger 1970) (section 1 and 3)
- reception of ancient Greek and Roman poetry (e.g. in Thomas Mezler's and Simon Rettenpacher's lyric poetry: see Till 2003, 57–8; Wintersteller/Zrenner 2006) (for section 2)
- representations and interpretations of Roman history in legal writings (e.g. in Franz Joseph von Herz zu Herzfeld's *Historia civilis* [1734]) (for section 2)
- Thomistic philosophy at the Benedictine University (for section 2 and 3)
- Salzburg's Benedictine University and German Jesuit Universities (e.g. Ingolstadt, Dillingen)—influences, parallels, and contrasts (for section 3)
- the law faculty's excellent reputation and supra-regional importance (as demonstrated by significant works such as Ernst Friedrich von Somthing's *Principia iuris canonici* [1691] and frequent requests for legal opinions from Salzburg's law professors (cf. Brandhuber 2012, 85) (for section 3)
- commentaries, handbooks, and language manuals—didactic materials at the AMB (e.g. Otto Aicher's *Iter poeticum* [1674] and *Iter oratorium* [1675]) (for section 3)
- historiographical method, source criticism, and periodization (e.g. in Franz, Joseph, and Paul Mezger's *Historia Salisburgensis* [1692], Roman Sedlmayr's *Historia almae et archiepiscopalis universitatis Salisburgensis* [1728], Beda Seeauer's *Novissimum Chronicon* [1772]) (for section 3)
- enlightened thinking at the AMB (see Lehner 2011; Wallnig 2019) (for section 3)
- baroque emblem books at the AMB (e.g. the emblems in Paris Gille's panegyric writings and the anonymous *Vigiliae rhetorum et somnia poetarum* [1682]) (for section 3)

Both survey and case study approaches are welcome. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary studies that combine well-proven methodologies with more unconventional ones to deal with the rich material under investigation.

Call for contributions

The organizers invite contributions exploring the three sections and topics outlined above (as well as additional perspectives). **Expressions of interest** may be submitted as soon as possible. **Abstracts for 30-minute talks** (in German, English, French, or Italian) of **max. 500 words** should be sent to Bernhard Söllradl (bernhard.soellradl@plus.ac.at) and Gottfried E. Kreuz (gottfriedeugen.kreuz@plus.ac.at) by **31 March 2025**. Please indicate your paper's section in the title and include your **name, affiliation**, and a **short bio**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **15 June**. We will start sharing the paper drafts with participants and assign respondents by **1 December 2025**. Selected papers from the workshop will be published in a **peer-reviewed edited volume**.

For any questions or further information, do not hesitate to contact us at the email addresses given above. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

References

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