



**SFB 1369 “Vigilanzkulturen”, LMU München, Teilprojekt B.02 (Susanne Lepsius)**

Denunziation und Rüge – Aufmerksamkeit als Ressource bei der Rechtsverwirklichung in der spätmittelalterlichen und frühneuzeitlichen Stadtgesellschaft (1400–1650)

## **Women, clothes, legal regulations**

### **Workshop on the legal status of women in Renaissance and Early Modern Italy and palaeography of Italian city statutes and related archival material**

*Prof. Dr. Elena Brizio (Fiesole), Prof Dr. Susanne Lepsius, M.A. (Chicago)*

München, Thursday, 13/2/2025 (14h c.t. to ca. 19h) and 14/2/2025 (10h c.t. to 13:30h)

#### Programme:

##### *Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> of February:*

14h c.t. – 16:30h	Introduction into CRC's project B.02 (S. Lepsius & T. Schütrumpf) Presentation on women's legal status and concerning dress regulations in Renaissance Italy (E. Brizio)
16:30h – 17h	Coffee break
17h – 18:30h	Advise on archival work by experienced legal history experts (S. Lepsius, E. Brizio)
ca. 19h	Dinner at <i>Gasthaus Fux</i> , Türkenstr. 38

##### *Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of February:*

10h c.t. – 11:45h	Palaeography workshop, part 1: focus on city statutes
11:45h – 12:15h	Coffee break
12h c.t. – 13:30h	Palaeography workshop, part 2: focus on procedural material
13:30h	Conclusion and end of workshop

#### Location:

Library of Legal History, Raum [V 213](#)  
Bibliothek für Bayerische und deutsche Rechtsgeschichte  
Prof.-Huber-Platz 2  
80539 München

#### Contact and registration:

*Tim Schütrumpf*, Maître en droit, e-mail: [tim.schuetrumpf@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:tim.schuetrumpf@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

**Please register in advance via e-mail and you will be sent the introductory literature below.**

### Abstract:

Focussing on the historical role of legal proceedings and processes as a means of engaging and applying vigilance in the Italian Renaissance and Early Modern city, our project treats the enforcement of Lucchese sumptuary laws during the period from 1370 to 1498. These legal texts mainly addressed the regulation of women's dress, funerals and weddings, aiming to restrict excessive luxury in the Late Medieval and Early Modern state, in this instance the city-state (*città-stato*) of Lucca. For the regulation to be effective, citizens played an active role by denouncing transgressions as otherwise, in the absence of the necessary law enforcement organs, they would have been left unnoticed.

As the regulations were frequently reformed, we argue that there must have been some sort of interaction between the (predominantly) women being restrained by these sumptuary laws and the men deciding to reform the regulations. The enforcement against the women themselves – or against their legal representatives (e.g. husbands, fathers, brothers; "*Quis teneatur pro mulieribus condemnatis?*") – raises the question of the status conceded to the women as legal subjects. How much of the legal responsibility really could rest with them? Did a woman's envy towards another encourage her to denounce a transgression of legal dress code? Or did the role as a targeted minority of bans promote a behaviour of solidarity, encouraging the women to support each other, for instance in giving excuses (e.g. insisting on having worn the fur of a milk weasel instead of the forbidden fur of ermine)?

This is where the expertise of [Prof. Elena Brizio](#) (Georgetown University) comes forth. As an expert on women's history in the Trecento and Quattrocento Tuscany, combined with her scientific focus on the city-state of Siena, she will offer an introduction to the status of women in such societies. Even though they were only given the rank of deprived, marginal members of the legal society, women left traces in archival documents. Showcasing their insights into the archival field work of legal historians, Prof. Elena Brizio and Prof. Susanne Lepsius will further explore these subjects.

In the main working phase of the palaeographical workshop, we will bend over challenging excerpts of the statutes studied by the CRC's project B.02. Starting from the legal text, we will then direct our focus to the enforcement mechanisms, exploring the diverse contact points with and the relevance to our vigilance project. In this context, to investigate and understand the enforcement process, we will analyse procedural documents, such as denunciations, accusations, court notices and decisions as well as condemnations and their collection (e.g. by the chancellor). The second part of the palaeographical workshop will focus on these types of archival sources.

The workshop will take place in **English** as the introductory literature will be. The archival texts treated will be in **Latin** or Italian.

**We warmly invite all interested fellows and scholars to join us in this workshop and benefit from the opportunity to engage in a discussion with our inspiring guest, Prof. Elena Brizio.**

### Introductory literature:

- CAVALLAR, Osvaldo/KIRSHNER, Julius: *Bella Figura*: Florentine Jurists and Their Wives, In: Jurists and Jurisprudence in Medieval Italy, Toronto 2020, pp. 233–244.
- KANTOROWICZ, Hermann/DENHOLM-YOUNG, Noël: De ornatu mulierum: A Consilium of Antonius de Rosellis with an Introduction on Fifteenth Century Sumptuary Legislation, In: La Bibliofilia 35 No. 8/9 (1933), pp. 315–335 and No. 11/12 (1933), pp. 440–456.
- KANTOROWICZ, Hermann: Albertus Gandinus und das Strafrecht der Scholastik, Bd. 1: Die Praxis: ausgewählte Strafprozeßakten des 13. Jh. nebst diplomatischer Einleitung, Berlin 1907, pp. 121–145 (introduction on Inquisitionsprozess); pp. 236 ff. (doc. 27), 284 (doc. 56).