

Reconsidering Courtly Environments, c. 1200-1800: Interconnecting European Court Cultures and the Role of Natural Environments and Landscapes

Academy Conference Centre, Prague, 20 - 21 November 2025

Co-organised by Household and Environmental Studies (HES), the Centre for Research on Courts and Residences (DaR) of the Institute of History at the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Society for Court Studies.



Workshop Programme

NOTE: All times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST).

Thursday, 20 November 2025 Akademické konferenční centrum/Academy Conference Centre (Husova 4a, 110 00 Prague, Czechia)		
8:30–9:00	Registration	Centre Hall
9:00–9:15	Welcome and Opening Words Dustin M. Neighbors	Centre Hall
Opening Keynote		
Chair: Michal Vokurka		
9:15–10:15	Luc Duerloo “Unnatural Landscapes: Ecologies of Memory Under the Archdukes Albert and Isabella”	Conference Room
10:15–10:30	Coffee Break	Centre Hall
Session 1 - Gardens		
Chair: Michal Vokurka		
10:30–12:00	Aline Gallasch-Hall de Beuvink, “The Little Versailles of Portugal: The Importance of the Queluz Palace and its Gardens in the 18 th Century” Monika Dršíková, “Interplay of Art and Nature: The Mannerist Garden in Ostrov and Ohří” Nadja Horsch, “Im Wald der Wunder: Merveille und Divertissement in den Gartenbosketts des 17. Jahrhunderts”	Conference Room
12:00–13:30	Lunch (on your own)	
Session 2 – Hunting 1		
Chair: Dustin M. Neighbors		
13:30–15:15	Jiří Hrbek, “Between Otium and Negotium: The Use of the Landscape Below Bezděz Castle in the Early Modern Period” František Záruba, “Sieben Jahrhunderte des Bestehens des Pürglitzer Jagdforstes und seine Verwandlungen” Bruno Farinelli, “Territorial Balances, Hunting and Sustainability: The House of Savoy and the Turin Park (16 th –17 th century)” Markéta Šantrůčková, “Hunting Landscape: An Example of Johann Rudolph Czernin’s Game Park”	Conference Room

15:15–15:30	Coffee Break	Centre Hall
<i>Session 3 – Eating</i>		
Chair: Dana Dvořáčková-Malá		
15:30–16:35	Heiner Stahl, “Diplomacy of Dishes” (presenting online) Ewelina Sikora, “Banqueting in the Garden: Spatial Ordering and Representation in Polish-Lithuanian Diplomacy”	Conference Room
<i>Reception</i>		
17:00–18:00	Reception Welcome and Opening Remarks Dana Dvořáčková-Malá, Dustin M. Neighbors, and Michal Vokurka	Centre Hall
18:00+	Dinner (on your own)	

Friday, 21 November 2025 Akademické konferenční centrum/Academy Conference Centre (Husova 4a, 110 00 Prague, Czechia)		
8:30–9:00	Registration	Centre Hall
<i>Session 4 – Landscape</i>		
Chair: Dustin M. Neighbors		
9:00–10:45	Michal Vokurka, “Demonstration of Environmental Power: The Emperors and their Aristocracy in the 17 th and 18 th Centuries” Tomáš Konečný, “Campus Martius as a Space of Monarchical Representation? The Saxon Polish Court within the Zeithain Military Encampment (1730)” Dorothea Hutterer, “From Gardeners, Gondoliers and Greyhound keepers – An Actor-Network-Analysis on Natural Courtly Environments around Munich” Fatih Yücel, “Gardens of Power: Natural Environments and Courtly Space in a 17 th -Century Anatolian Palace”	Conference Room
10:45–11:00	Coffee Break	Centre Hall
<i>Session 5 – Hunting II</i>		
Chair: Zuzana Vařáková		
10:40–11:30	Koldo Trapaga Monchet and Raúl Romero-Calcerrada, “Management and Materiality of the Royal Forest of Almeirim as a Multifunctional Landscape (15 th -17 th centuries)” (presenting online)	Conference Room
11:30–13:00	Lunch (on your own)	
<i>Session 6 - Roundtable</i>		
Chair: Dustin M. Neighbors		
13:00–15:00	“Reconsidering Courtly Environments: What have we learned that will help drive research forward?” Luc Duerloo, Bruno Farinelli, Markéta Šantrůčková, and Dorothea Hutterer	Conference Room

15:00-15:15	Coffee Break	Centre Hall
<i>Conference Conclusion</i>		
15:15-15:45	Closing Remarks Dustin M. Neighbors and Michal Vokurka	Conference Room