

Storytelling at princely courts, c. 1200–1800

Narration, Performance, Social Discourse

University of Wrocław, 27 - 29 August 2026

Co-organised by the European branch of the Society for Court Studies and University of Wrocław, in collaboration with the University of Pardubice (Czechia)



Thursday, 27 August 2024
(University of Wrocław, Main Library)

8:30–9:15		Registration and coffee	TBC	
9:15–9:30		Welcome TBC conferences organisers	TBC	Digital link
9:30–10:30	Session 1	<p><u>Panel: Didactic and scholarly tales at court</u></p> <p>Chair: Krisztina Rábai</p> <p>Pedro Álvarez-Cifuentes (University of Oviedo) Chivalric Tales at the Portuguese Court: Dom Duardos, Menina e moça and Filodem</p> <p>Zdeněk Žalud (Hussite Museum in Tábor) Natural Philosophy, its Knowledge and Use at the Courts of Bohemian Kings in the 14th century</p>	TBC	Digital link
10:30–10:45		Break		
10:45–12:00	Session 2	<p><u>Panel: Narrating ceremonies, ceremonies as narrations</u></p> <p>Chair: Joseph F. Patrouch</p> <p>Francesca De Caprio (University of Tuscia) Ceremony as Embodied Narrative: Queen Christina of Sweden and the Storytelling of Sovereignty in Rome</p> <p>Francesca Ceci, Clarissa Pietrini (Capitoline Museums Rome, University of Rome “Sapienza”) The “Journey to Rome” of the Dowager Queen Maria Casimira Sobieska and her court, as recounted in the Diary of Canon Antonio Bassani (1700)</p> <p>Andrea Corica (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)</p>	TBC	Digital link

		"Faville della Relatione delle Feste": Coutly Storytelling and Dynastic Marriage at the Savoyard Court (1608)		
12:00–13:00		Lunch	TBC	
13:00–14:00	Keynote	<p>“Clickbait for the Court of Louis XIV: The publication of ‘shock memoirs’ to titillate and entertain”</p> <p>Jonathan Spangler Manchester Metropolitan University</p>	Aula Leopoldina	Digital link
14:00–14:15		Break		
14:15–16:00	Session 3	<p><u>Panel: Narrative and performance at court and cultural encounter</u></p> <p>Chair: Marc W.S.Jaffré</p> <p>Darius von Güttner Sporzyński (Australian Catholic University)</p> <p>Stories of Power and Presence: Narrative Practices at the Jagiellon Court under Sigismund I the Elder and Queen Bona</p> <p>David H. Zirak-Schmidt (University of Southern Denmark)</p> <p>Stories of the Sea: Anna of Denmark, Sea Narratives, and Cultural Encounter</p> <p>Hanna Sinclair (University of Oxford)</p> <p>The Personal, Political, and Cultural Transition of an Early Modern Noble Bride</p>	TBC	Digital link
16:00–16:15		Break		
16:15–17:30	Session 4	<p><u>Panel: Circulation of news and rhetoric of stories at courts</u></p> <p>Chair: Patrik Pastrnak</p> <p>Maximilian Diemer (Princeton University)</p> <p>"Et encore une liste d'officiers tombés au combat... Ils laisseront un grand vide au palais." Reporting military news at the court of Versailles in the 18th century</p> <p>Krisztina Rábai (University of Szeged)</p> <p>From "French Disease" to Scholarly Certainty: Informal News, Moral Framing, and Evidence Slippage in the Jagiellonian World</p> <p>Bruno A Martinho (National Palace of Sintra)</p> <p>"I am too weary from pain to reply to Your Excellency's letters" The performativity of pain in sixteenth-century Iberian courts</p>	TBC	Digital link
18:00–19:00		Conference Reception	TBC	

Friday, 28 August 2026
(University of Wrocław, Main Library)

9:15–10:30	Session 5	<p><u>Panel: Narration and space, visual storytelling</u></p> <p>Chair: Fatih Yücel</p> <p>Ana Galisteo Chico (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) The Royal Sites and the Spanish Court of Charles IV (1788–1808) through Travellers' Accounts</p> <p>Ludovica Fasciani (IMT Advanced Studies, Lucca) Narrative Stratification and Courtly Space: The Afterlife of the Borgia Apartment</p> <p>Netanel (Nati) Nagar (University of Haifa) Reading the Court Vertically: The Crown–Darell Relationship in a Heraldic Pedigree Roll</p>	TBC	Digital link
10:30–10:45		Break		
10:45–12:00	Session 6	<p><u>Panel: Staged and performed narratives</u></p> <p>Chair: Maximilian Diemer</p> <p>Jessica Becker (University of Kent) R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: Narrative Discourse on Domestic Masculinity in Caroline Court Drama</p> <p>Joseph Patrouch (University of Alberta) Zirfeo's Women: Tales performed on the Prague Public Squares, February and March, 1570</p> <p>Rafał Hryszko (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) The Role of Narratives on the Splendours of the Table in the Light of Descriptions of Renaissance Italian Courtly Feasts: The Case of trionfi di zucchero</p>	TBC	Digital link
12:00–13:15		Lunch	TBC	
13:15–14:30	Session 7	<p><u>Panel: Courtly and dynastic tales in visual and artistic representations</u></p> <p>Chair: Jessica Becker</p> <p>Barbara Hryszko (Ignatianum University in Cracow) Narrative Models of Historiated Female Portraits at the Court of Versailles</p> <p>Joanna Sikorska (National Museum in Warsaw) Printed Narratives: Cranach as a Storyteller</p> <p>Antonio Urquizar-Herrera (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid)</p>	TBC	Digital link

		Narratives of Entailment and Artistic Preservation: Lineage Identity and its Retrospective Construction at the End of the Ancien Régime		
14:30–14:45		Break		
14:45–16:00	Session 7	<p><u>Panel: Identity and historiography as courtly narration</u></p> <p>Chair: Ewelina Sikora</p> <p>Fatih Yücel (University of Vienna) Performance and Discipline in the Early Modern Ottoman Court: The Herodotean Archetype, 'Azmi-yi Gedüsi, and the Discourse of Usurpation</p> <p>Jakub Rogulski (Jagiellonian University Cracow) Imperial Titles as Narrative Practices: Constructing Historical Legitimacy in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (16th-17th Centuries)</p> <p>Cumhur Bekar (Social Sciences University of Ankara) From Şehname Narrative to Daily Record: The Transformation of Courtly Historiography in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire</p>	TBC	Digital link
16:00–16:15		Break		
16:30–17:45	Session 8	<p><u>Panel: Stories of otherness at and from princely courts</u></p> <p>Chair: Jiří Kubeš</p> <p>Marie Claude Canova-Green (Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle) "Very nasty people" or "perfect gentlemen"? Two Siamese Embassies at the Court of Louis XIV</p> <p>Ewelina Sikora (Independent Researcher) "They Talked Nonsense:" Diplomatic Reporting and Polish-Lithuanian Embassies to Istanbul in the Seventeenth Century</p> <p>Marc W.S.Jaffré (ISIG/Nichibunken) Foreigners, Storytelling and Social Discourse: Marginalization at the Courts of Henri IV and Louis XIII of France, 1589–1643</p>	TBC	Digital link
17:45–18:00	Conference Conclusion	Closing remarks by conference organisers	TBC	Digital link

**Saturday, 29 August 2026
(Trip)**

8:00		Meeting point for trip via coach	TBC	
10:00–13:00		Tour of Książ Castle, Church of Peace in Świdnica		
13:00–14:30		Lunch	On your own	
16:00		Return to Wrocław		