

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, University Library, room no. 4)			
8:30–9:00		Conference check-in	Hall
9:00–9:15		Welcome by the conference organisers & host	
9:15–10:15	Keynote	Clickbait for the Court of Louis XIV: The publication of “shock memoirs” to titillate and entertain Jonathan Spangler Manchester Metropolitan University	
10:15–10:30		Coffee Break	Hall
10:30–12:00	Session 1	<u>Panel: Narrating ceremonies, ceremonies as narrations</u> Chair: Joseph F. Patrouch Francesca De Caprio (University of Tuscia) Ceremony as Embodied Narrative: Queen Christina of Sweden and the Storytelling of Sovereignty in Rome 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) Andrea Corica (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa) “Faville della Relatione delle Feste”: Courtly Storytelling and Dynastic Marriage at the Savoyard Court (1608)	
12:00–13:30		Lunch	Hall
13:30–14:30	Session 2	<u>Panel: Stories of otherness at and from princely courts</u> Chair: Jiří Kubeš Marie Claude Canova-Green (Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle) “More than a quire of paper”: the 1001 tales of the Siamese embassy to France in 1686	

		Ewelina Sikora (Independent Researcher) "They Talked Nonsense": Diplomatic Reporting and Polish-Lithuanian Embassies to Istanbul in the Seventeenth Century	
14:30–14:45		Coffee Break	Hall
14:45–15:45	Session 3	<u>Panel: Narrative and performance at court</u> Chair: Aleksandra Ziober David H. Zirak-Schmidt (University of Southern Denmark) Stories of the Sea: Anna of Denmark, Sea Narratives, and Cultural Encounter Zdeněk Žalud (Hussite Museum in Tábor) Natural Philosophy, its Knowledge and Use at the Courts of Bohemian Kings in the 14th century	
15:45–16:00		Break	
16:00–17:30	Session 4	<u>Panel: Circulation of news and rhetoric of stories at courts</u> Chair: Patrik Pastrnak Maximilian Diemer (Princeton University) "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 Krisztina Rábai (University of Szeged) From "French Disease" to Scholarly Certainty: Informal News, Moral Framing, and Evidence Slippage in the Jagiellonian World Bruno A Martinho (National Palace of Sintra) "I am too weary from pain to reply to Your Excellency's letters" The performativity of pain in sixteenth-century Iberian courts	
18:00–19:00		Dinner	

Friday, 28 August 2026

9:00–10:30	Session 5	<u>Panel: Narration and space, visual storytelling</u> Chair: Fatih Yücel Ana Galisteo Chico (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) The Royal Sites and the Spanish Court of Charles IV (1788–1808) through Travellers' Accounts Ludovica Fasciani (IMT Advanced Studies, Lucca) Narrative Stratification and Courtly Space: The Afterlife of the Borgia Apartment Netanel (Nati) Nagar (University of Haifa) Reading the Court Vertically: The Crown–Darell Relationship in a Heraldic Pedigree Roll	
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10:30–10:45		Coffee Break	Hall
10:45–12:15	Session 6	<u>Panel: Staged and performed narratives</u> Chair: Maximilian Diemer Jessica Becker (University of Kent) R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: Narrative Discourse on Domestic Masculinity in Caroline Court Drama Joseph Patrouch (University of Alberta) Zirfeo's Women: Tales performed on the Prague Public Squares, February and March, 1570 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	
12:15–13:15		Lunch	Hall
13:15–14:45	Session 7	<u>Panel: Courtly and dynastic tales in visual and artistic representations</u> Chair: Jessica Becker Barbara Hryszko (Ignatianum University in Cracow) Narrative Models of Historiated Female Portraits at the Court of Versailles Joanna Sikorska (National Museum in Warsaw) Printed Narratives: Cranach as a Storyteller Antonio Urquizar-Herrera (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid) Narratives of Entailment and Artistic Preservation: Lineage Identity and its Retrospective Construction at the End of the Ancien Régime	
14:45–15:00		Coffee Break	Hall
15:00–16:00	Session 8	<u>Panel: Identity and historiography as courtly narration</u> Chair: Ewelina Sikora Fatih Yücel (University of Vienna) Performance and Discipline in the Early Modern Ottoman Court: The Herodotean Archetype, 'Azmī-yi Gedūsī, and the Discourse of Usurpation Cumhur Bekar (Social Sciences University of Ankara) From Şehname Narrative to Daily Record: The Transformation of Courtly Historiography in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire	
16:15–16:30		Closing remarks by conference organisers	

Saturday, 29 August 2026
(Trip)

8:00		Meeting point for the trip via coach	TBC
10:00–12:00		Tour of Książ Castle	Audioguide
12:30–14:00		Lunch in Świdnica	On your own
14:00–15:00		Tour of the Church of Peace in Świdnica	Audioguide
Ca. 16:30		Return to Wrocław	