



VOLANTINO

Adrianus VI

Symposium 22 April 2022, Rome

*Hosted by the Belgian and Netherlands Embassies to the Holy See,
in cooperation with the project group 'Adrianus VI':*

Dr. Carl Sterkens – Dean Theological Faculty, Radboud University Nijmegen, President of the project group Adrianus VI

Mgr. Dirk Smet – Ecclesiastical Counselor of the Belgian Embassy to the Holy See

Carlien Geelkerken – Director Thomas More Foundation

Dr. Michiel Verweij – Curator Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)

Prof. dr. Wim François – Professor of History of Church and Theology, Catholic University of Leuven

Prof. dr. Paul van Geest – Professor Church History, Tilburg University & Erasmus University Rotterdam

Patrick Renault – Ambassador of the Kingdom Belgium to the Holy See

Caroline Weijers – Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the Holy See

Under the auspices of:

their Eminences:

Joseph Cardinal De Kesel – Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels

Willem Jacobus Cardinal Eijk – Archbishop of Utrecht

Gianfranco Cardinal Ravasi – President of the Pontifical Council for Culture

Jose Cardinal Tolentino de Mendonça – Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church

and

Prof. dr. Luc Sels – Rector of the Catholic University of Leuven

Sara Lammens – Director Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)

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TILBURG  UNIVERSITY

Radboud University 

**Erasmus
University
Rotterdam**



KU LEUVEN

Programme

Walk in and registration	15.00 - 15.20	
Opening	15.20 - 15.25	Patrick Renault <i>Ambassador of the Kingdom Belgium to the Holy See</i>
Welcome	15.25 - 15.30	Caroline Weijers <i>Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the Holy See</i>
<i>Musical intermezzo 1</i>	15.30 - 15.45	Cappella Musicale di Santa Maria dell' Anima <i>Led by Flavio Colusso, maestro di cappella</i>
Adrianus VI - Introduction	15.45 - 16.15	Michiel Verweij <i>Curator Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)</i>
Church Reform and Catholic Orthodoxy	16.15 - 16.45	Wim François <i>Professor of History of Church and Theology, Catholic University of Leuven</i>
<i>Musical intermezzo 2</i>	16.45 - 17.10	Cappella Musicale di Santa Maria dell' Anima <i>Led by Flavio Colusso, maestro di cappella</i>
Grand Inquisitor and the man who secured Charles V's heritage in Spain	17.10 - 17.40	Daniela Müller <i>Professor in the History of Christianity, Radboud University Nijmegen</i>
The Compatibility of Pope Adrian VI and Erasmus	17.40 - 18.10	Paul van Geest <i>Professor Church History, Tilburg University & Erasmus University Rotterdam</i>
<i>Musical intermezzo 3</i>	18.20 - 18.35	Cappella Musicale di Santa Maria dell' Anima <i>Led by Flavio Colusso, maestro di cappella</i>
Discussion	18.35 - 19.15	Led by moderator Andrea Vreede
Opening festive reception	19.15	Patrick Renault

Moderator :

Andrea Vreede

Biography

(Amsterdam 1962) followed her childhood dream by going to Groningen University to read Classics and study Archaeology. She then realized there were probably more job opportunities to be found in less extinct languages and trained to become an interpreter-translator in Italian. This brought her in 1994 to Italy where she helped in the making of an Italian-Dutch dictionary. Through a combination of skill and sheer luck, in 2002 she started a career as Italy and Vatican correspondent for NOS, Dutch public radio and television. Nowadays she stills covers the Vatican for the NOS but she also works as a freelance journalist and lecturer.

Guest speakers:

ADRIAN VI: AN INTRODUCTION

Dr. Michiel Verweij

Adrian Florensz (Utrecht, 2 March 1459 - Rome, 14 September 1523) had a remarkable career. This contribution gives a brief overview of his life, starting with his education in Utrecht and Zwolle, his studies at the Catholic University of Leuven, his slow rise in the academic society until he was the uncrowned leader of the Leuven theologians. At that moment, he was asked to become tutor to the young prince Charles, the future emperor Charles V. In 1515, Charles would send his tutor to Spain, where he was to become Charles's representative. At the same time, Adrian received one high ecclesiastical dignity after another and was even created a cardinal at Charles's explicit wish. On 9 January 1522, Adrian was elected pope, in his absence. He would arrive in Rome only at the end of August. His reign was dominated by the Lutheran question. Adrian tried to formulate a policy of reform in order to counterattack Luther's criticism. His pontificate was too short to continue much further, but he is still well-known for his apologies for all that was wrong, an act unique in history.

Biography

Dr. Michiel Verweij read classics at Leuven, and defended his PhD on a subject of Neo-Latin literature. Afterwards he was engaged in the editing of a humanistic correspondence kept in the Catholic University of Leuven's library, and in various other scholarly projects. Since 2004 he is a scholarly collaborator and vice-curator at the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels; first at the manuscripts' department, and since 2016 at the rare books section.

He was curator of the 2009/2010 exhibition on Adrian VI in Utrecht and Leuven, and directed the catalogue. In 2011 he published a biography of Pope Adrian. In 2019-20 he was curator of an exhibition on Ovid. He is a Latin poet, who writes under the pen name of Michael Pratensis. In 2022 he is a guest professor at the Catholic University of Leuven (Department of Latin literature).

ADRIAN VI AS A LEUVEN PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY: CHURCH REFORM AND CATHOLIC ORTHODOXY

Prof. dr. Wim François, Catholic University of Leuven

Adrian of Utrecht was a professor at the Louvain Faculty of Theology in the years 1490 until 1515, although he was often absent from 1507 onwards, due to the tasks he was entrusted with at court. While Adrian's attempts to develop theology into a more practical and pastoral orientation was much applauded, this paper will focus on his views to reform the office of priests and prelates, bringing it back to its original "vocation." Apart from his actions to restore celibacy among the canons of Saint-Peter's church in Louvain, he showed himself in his "*Quaestiones*" regarding the Fourth Book of Peter Lombard's Sentences (1516) critical of clerics holding multiple benefices and thus being unable to perform all pastoral duties related to these benefices. Being a notorious collector of benefices himself, Adrian defended himself by asserting that their revenues were used for the well-being of the Church. In 1500, he contributed to the

establishment of the Louvain *Domus pauperum* led by Jan Standonck. The house aimed at a high-quality theological training in combination with an upright spiritual and moral education for future priests and religious men in a context of strict discipline. Conceived in 1511, the Pope's college in Louvain was eventually funded by his will in 1523, contributing to the academic training of theologians at the University. Adrian's and other reformers' views on the education and office of priests would resound and be expanded in the writings of Adrian's disciples Jacobus Latomus and Ruard Tapper, and eventually find "consecration" at the Council of Trent. Adrian's reform-minded ideas were hand-in-glove with an uncompromising defense of Catholic orthodoxy, shown in his support for the Louvain and Cologne condemnations of several of Luther's positions in 1519.

Biography

Wim François (PhD and STD 2004) is Professor of Early Modern Church and Theology at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium). At the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, he serves as the Coordinator of the Research Unit History of Church and Theology and as Academic Librarian of the Maurits Sabbe Library.

His field of research is the history of Church and theology in the Early Modern Era (1450-1650), Tridentine Catholicism, and the 'old' Faculty of Theology of Louvain. He is, more in particular, investigating the place of vernacular Bible reading in the life of the faithful in the period concerned. In addition, he is doing research into the Bible commentaries edited by the Louvain and Douai theologians during the so-called 'Golden Age' of Catholic biblical scholarship (1550-1650), with a particular focus on the Augustinian inspiration of these commentaries. Other research interests relate to the Bible and the visual arts, biblical drama and chambers of rhetoric, next to other areas of early modern biblical culture.

See further: <https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/researchers/00035611>

ADRIAN OF UTRECHT: GRAND INQUISITOR AND THE MAN WHO SECURED CHARLES V'S HERITAGE IN SPAIN

Prof. dr. Daniela Müller, Radboud University Nijmegen

Adrian of Utrecht was appointed Inquisitor General of the Crown of Aragon and Navarre in 1516, making him a colleague of Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros, who held this office in Castile and Leon. When Cisneros died in 1517, Adrian succeeded him the next year as Inquisitor General of Castile and Leon as well, resulting in a significant consolidation of the two previously separate tribunals of the Spanish Inquisition.

Who does not think of the famous *portrait of Don Fernando Nino de Guevara* by El Greco (1600), when hearing 'Grand Inquisitor'? In his novella *El Greco paints the Grand Inquisitor* (1936), Stefan Zweig interprets this masterpiece as an encounter between spirit and power, and as a struggle between opponents of the Inquisition and its chief executor. It elucidates some of the conflicts Fyodor Dostoyevsky already mentioned in *The Brothers Karamazow* (1880): freedom of belief against coercion by the institution; search for truth against obedience to religious authorities; and power against charisma. But do these creative representations and their influence on the modern image of the Spanish Inquisition actually reflect in any way Adrian's role? What did the office of Grand Inquisitor entail? And what was his position

in regard to the Spanish Inquisition? This lecture elucidates the power and competencies of Adrian as Inquisitor General and Grand Inspector, taking into account some peculiarities of the Spanish Inquisition compared to the Medieval Papal Inquisition.

This lecture confronts the historical reality with the image anchored in the Enlightenment and beyond. The image is nuanced by answering the question how the appointment of Adrian as Grand Inquisitor was a factor in stabilizing Charles V's rule and securing his position as regent in Spain. It also discusses the skilful tactics of Adrian in this regard. In 1520, he managed to convince the legitimate queen, Joanna of Castile, the mother of Charles V, to refuse any further support for the revolt of the *Comuneros*. Joanna's resistance to the Inquisition had been known since she was a girl. While continuing support for the *Comuneros* could have been a turning point in Joanna's tragic life, she was persuaded not to do so by Adrian. As a consequence Joanna disappeared for the next 35 years, residing in the prison of Tordesillas, while her son was not only emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, but also remained King of Castile and Aragon. Without Adrian, the story could have turned out completely different...

Biography

Daniela Müller studied theology, history and German literature in Würzburg, Rome and Bonn. In 1986 she received her PhD in theology, followed in 1995 by her second thesis (Habilitation). From 1985 to 2001 she was a member of the academic advisory board of the "Centre d'Etudes Cathares" in Carcassonne, and from 1993 to 1996 a fellow of the DFG in Würzburg and Jena. Between 2001 and 2009 she was appointed professor of Church History in Utrecht and Tilburg. Since 2009 she is appointed professor for Church History and Canon Law, and History of Christianity at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

Since 1998 she also teaches history of canon law at the Westfälische Wilhelms-University in Münster, Germany. Together with Prof. Dr. Joseph Verheyden (Leuven) she is founder of the Center 'Polemikos'. She is member of the board of editors of "Studies in Theology and Religion" (Brill) and of "Révue d'histoire ecclésiastique" (Peeters), and a Senior Fellow of FRIAS/DFG in Freiburg.

Her work focuses on ecclesiastical discipline, particularly on the concepts of orthodoxy and heterodoxy, and the history of dissident communities.

THE COMPATIBILITY OF POPE ADRIAN VI AND ERASMUS

Prof. dr. Paul van Geest, University of Tilburg & Erasmus University Rotterdam

The Brethren of the Common Life, a semi religious branch of the Late Medieval movement of the *Devotio Moderna*, did develop a flourishing educational system in the 15th and 16th century. Many pupils would become regular canons of the Congregation of Windesheim, like Desiderius Erasmus, who took his vows in the monastery Stein near Gouda and Adrianus Florentii, the Leuven professor, educator of emperor Charles V and later Pope Adrian VI.

Adrian is often seen as one of the last exponents of medieval scholasticism and Erasmus is normally understood as 'prince of the humanists'. But the common influence of the Modern Devotion on their education illustrates that dividing lines between periods are fluid and demonstrates that the recalibration of church and society to new standards is a continuous process. Adrian's and Erasmus' attention to the inner self and the moral compass - in Adrian's case expressed in words about the *forum*

animae (tribunal of the soul), and in Erasmus' works expressed in reflections on conscience - is evidence of their compatibility on a practical-spiritual level.

In this lecture Adrian's and Erasmus' thoughts about the consequences of vices such as greed and lust for personal and ecclesiastical life, will be described in the framework of their formation by the Brethren of the Common Life, aiming to point at differences and similarities with respect to their views on the Christian order of life.

Biography

Paul van Geest studied Philology at Leiden University, and Philosophy and Theology at the Gregorian University. He is a Full Professor of Church History and History of Theology at Tilburg University, Full Professor of Economics and Theology at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Visiting Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven. He has published and edited more than 30 books and wrote more than 400 articles about Thomas a Kempis, Augustine and his Negative Theology, Gabriel Biel, the Modern Devotion and the interrelationship of theology and economics. His most recent book is: *Morality in the Market Place. Reconciling Theology and Economics* (Leiden: Brill, 2021).

He was pro-decanus of the Faculty of Theology at Tilburg University from 2013-2019. In 2008 he founded the Centre of Patristic Research, which aimed at research into the theological developments in Early Christianity, and in 2019 the Economics and Theology Institute at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is editor of various publications, and editor-in-chief of Brill's *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. He is, i.a., a member of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities, member of the Board of Humanities Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Pontifical Academy for Theology and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.