

RELIGION, POLITICS & CULTURE IN THE PAPACY OF GREGORY XV LUDOVISI (1621-1623)

*Marking the 400th anniversary of one of the
most consequential shorter pontificates*

**FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2021
830am-730pm EST**

**An international, virtual
conference via ZOOM, hosted by
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania**

**Register now:
<https://ludovisi.org>**

**Organized by
T. Corey Brennan (Rutgers Univ.)
& Pierette Kulpa (Kutztown Univ.)**

Presentations by
Salvatore Andrea APICELLA
Ivica ČAIROVIĆ
Gloria CAMESASCA
Martina CATALDO
Carol COFONE
Pascal COTTE
Laura GARCÍA SÁNCHEZ
Barbara GHELFI
Jacqueline GIZ
Isabel HESLIN
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Christine KONDOLEON
Pierette KULPA
Claudia LA MALFA
Denis LARIONOV
Anthony MAJANLAHTI
Carlo MARINO
Chiara MATTEUCCI
Raffaella MORSELLI
Martin RASPE
Pasquale STENTA
David STONE (discussant)
Daniel M. UNGER
and a keynote by
HSH Princess Rita
BONCOMPAGNI LUDOVISI

IMAGE: GUIDO RENI ADAPTED BY
ALEXIS GREBER (KUTZTOWN '21)



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**An international, virtual conference (Friday 5
February 2021) hosted by Kutztown University of
Pennsylvania**

Organized by T. Corey Brennan (Department of Classics—Rutgers University) and Pierette Kulpa (Department of Art, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania)

Sponsors include Department of Classics, Rutgers University, and the American Academy in Rome
Questions? progettoludovisi@gmail.org

We aim to cover a wide range of aspects—political, diplomatic, theological, cultural—of the pontificate of Gregory XV Ludovisi (1621-1623), in a one day virtual conference on Friday 5 February 2021 (9am-7pm Eastern US time). The recorded presentations will be closed captioned for accessibility.

Confirmed participants include: Salvatore Andrea APICELLA (Lumière Technology, Ponthierry), Ivica ČAIROVIĆ (Univ. Belgrade), Gloria CAMESASCA (Sondrio), Martina CATALDO (Univ. Bologna at Ravenna), Carol COFONE (Red Bank NJ), Pascal COTTE (Lumière Technology, Ponthierry), Laura GARCÍA SÁNCHEZ (Univ. Barcelona), Barbara GHELFI (Univ. Bologna at Ravenna), Jacqueline GIZ (Rutgers Univ.), Isabel HESLIN (Lehigh Univ.), Sonia ISIDORI (Boston Coll.), Christine KONDOLEON (MFA Boston), Pierette KULPA (Kutztown Univ.), Claudia LA MALFA (American Univ. of Rome), Denis LARIONOV (Belarusian State Univ.), Anthony MAJANLAHTI (Rome), Carlo MARINO (Rome), Chiara MATTEUCCI (Univ. Bologna at Ravenna), Raffaella MORSELLI (Univ. Teramo), Martin RASPE (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome), Pasquale STENTA (Univ. Bologna at Ravenna), David STONE (Univ. Delaware) [discussant], Daniel M. UNGER (Ben-Gurion Univ.), and HSH Princess Rita BONCOMPAGNI LUDOVISI (Rome, keynote address). A full schedule of presentations is below in this post.

This conference is meant to anticipate the 400th anniversary of the election of Alessandro Ludovisi as pope on 9 February 1621. At the time, few must have expected the frail 67 year old Bolognese cardinal to live long enough to make much of a difference with his pontificate, beyond perhaps resolving the most urgent political challenges he inherited from his predecessor, Paul V Borghese (reigned 1605-1621). Yet before his death just 29 months later (8 July 1623), Gregory XV Ludovisi registered an impressively broad series of accomplishments that invite renewed attention, analysis and critique.

A highly capable mediator, Gregory XV and his administration quickly developed an interventionist foreign policy that scored conspicuous successes in Bohemia (then the epicenter of Protestant resistance to Catholic Habsburg rule) and in the hotly-disputed Valtellina region in Lombardy. He canonized five saints—one more than Paul V did, and indeed all on the same day (12 March 1622)—including Ignatius of Loyola and Francis Xavier, who were the first Jesuits to be admitted to sainthood. He massively invigorated the Church's foreign mission work by creating the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, which to the present day has directed and animated Catholic evangelization. Furthermore, he reformed the process of papal elections, introducing rules that lasted untouched until the early 20th century. It is with good reason that the Ludovisi pontificate is commonly counted as one of the more important papacies for the post-Reformation church since the Council of Trent in the mid-16th century, and indeed as one of the most consequential shorter pontificates ever.

The papacy of Gregory XV also marks a significant cultural moment in Rome. In 1621, his young nephew, the newly-created cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi, purchased and started to redevelop a section of Rome's Pincio hill that corresponded in part to the ancient Gardens of Sallust. His vision was to create a dramatically landscaped urban villa, all within the ancient city walls, that could compete with the adjoining property of the Borghese family. For his new 'Villa Ludovisi', the cardinal quickly formed a large and eclectic collection of art, significant especially for its classical sculptures, many of which are exhibited today in Rome's **Palazzo Altemps museum**, and its mural painting by contemporary Bolognese artists commissioned for the cardinal's secondary palace, the Casino Aurora. For the two and half centuries after the pontificate of Gregory XV, the Villa Ludovisi maintained its position as a principal destination on the Grand Tour, until its gardens were handed over to developers in 1885 for the creation of a new, elegant business and residential quarter. Of cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi's two Villa palaces, one is partially preserved today within the compound of the **US Embassy in Rome**, and the other—the **Casino Aurora**—remains a private residence of the head of the noble Boncompagni Ludovisi family.

In scholarly terms, the time certainly seems right for this virtual conference, even without the 400th anniversary of the Ludovisi pontificate. To focus here only on unpublished materials: in 2010 HSH Princess Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi made the surprising discovery in the Casino Aurora of a large cache of historical documents—well over 100,000 pages dating back to the 1400s, organized in about 2400 folders, “orphaned” from the much larger collection that the **Vatican Secret Archive acquired from the family in 1947** (with **published inventory appearing in 2008**). An overview of these archival items, now completely digitized, can be found at the **website for the Rutgers-based project formed to highlight these finds**, the Archivio Digitale Boncompagni Ludovisi, and at its partner **Google Arts & Culture platform**. One of the more important documents that has newly come to light is a manuscript copy of an unusually valuable contemporary (ca. 1633) biography of cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi by his personal secretary Lucantonio Giunti, transcribed by a team of undergraduate students at Kutztown University under the direction of Pierette Kulpa.

There have been other recent advances in understanding sources relating to the pontificate of Gregory XV. These include a campaign to photograph the mural paintings of the Casino Aurora in extreme detail by specialists from the Laboratorio diagnostico per i Beni Culturali of the University of Bologna at Ravenna, as part of a project **Guercino: Oltre il colore**. Furthermore, a collaboration between Professor Bernard Frischer (Indiana University) and Geostudi Astier SRL (Livorno) has resulted in a comprehensive non-invasive underground survey of the Casino Aurora and its grounds, and the creation of a 3D model that sheds much new light on the Roman-era origins of this area, and its later development through the 17th century and beyond.

There is much more that can be said, especially about the range of specialized and general published scholarship, from multiple disciplinary perspectives, that has appeared in the past few decades on the era of Gregory XV. In short, this virtual conference aims to offer those with an interest in the Ludovisi papacy an opportunity to assess recent contributions on the subject, to share fresh research and analysis, and to reappraise this pope's immediate impact and later relevance.



*Religion, Politics, & Culture
in the Papacy of Gregory XV Ludovisi (1621-1623)
International Online Conference, 5th February, 2021*



Design: Alexis Greber (KU '21)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES EST)

WELCOME 830am

MICHELLE KIEC

Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Kutztown University

KENNETH S. HAWKINSON

President, Kutztown University

HSB PRINCESS RITA BONCOMPAGNI LUDOVISI

Princess of Piombino XI

PIERETTE KULPA

Assistant Professor, Department of Art, Kutztown University (conference co-organizer)

T. COREY BRENNAN

Professor, Classics, Rutgers University (conference co-organizer)

SESSION A: RELIGION 1 845am-1000am

Presider: Delaney Marshall (KU '22). Moderator: T. Corey Brennan

A01 845am **Sonia Isidori** (Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies—Boston College), "It seemed to me that a wide door is already opening to make many more people happy'. The Congregation for Propagation of the Faith through the *litterae indipetae* of the Society of Jesus"

A02 915am **Ivica Čairović** (University of Belgrade), "Activity of Catholic Church in the regions under Ottoman rule (1622-1634)"

945-1000am discussion

SESSION B: RELIGION 2 1015am-1200pm

Presider: Danielle Schwesinger (KU '21). Moderator: Pierette Kulpa

B01 1015 **Laura García Sánchez** (Universitat de Barcelona), "Bologna y Gregorio XV, 1624. Lectura del aparato funebre construido para la conmemoración del primer aniversario de la muerte del pontífice."

B02 1045am **Martin Raspe** (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome), "A false start for Roman Baroque architecture: The planned burial church of Gregory XV on the Quirinal Hill"

B03 1115am **Denis Larionov** (Belarusian State University), "Gregory XV in the Russian-Language historiography"

1145am-1200pm discussion

SESSION C: 1230-230pm CULTURE 1

Presider: Sarah Siegel (KU '21). Moderator: Pierette Kulpa

C01 1230pm **Claudia La Malfa** (American University of Rome), "The most desired artists in a Seicento collection"

C02 100pm **Daniel M. Unger** (Ben-Gurion University), "Alessandro Ludovisi and Guercino"

C03 130pm **Barbara Ghelfi, Chiara Matteucci, Martina Cataldo, Pasquale Stenta** (Bologna at Ravenna), **Salvatore Andrea Apicella, Pascal Cotte** (Lumière Technology), **Raffaella Morselli** (Univ. Teramo), "From Emilia to Rome. New studies and diagnostic investigations on Guercino's wall-paintings in the Ludovisi Casino Aurora"

C04 200pm **David Stone** (Delaware), "Observations on Guercino as a *frescante* in Rome, 1621-1623" [discussion of Ghelfi, Matteucci et al. presentation]

215-230pm discussion

SESSION D: POLITICS 245-500pm

Presider: Brenna Malloy (KU '21). Moderator: T. Corey Brennan

D01 245pm **Gloria Camesasca** (Sondrio), "Gregory XV's policy for Valtellina through local historical sources"

D02 315pm **Carlo Marino** (Rome), "A sign of gratitude to Gregory XV: The relocation of the Palatine Library from the city of Heidelberg to Rome"

D03 345pm **Anthony Majanlahti** (Rome), "Cardinal Nipote and Cardinal Padrone: Scipione Borghese and Ludovico Ludovisi"

D04 415pm **Pierette Kulpa** (Kutztown University) "Mantenere la parola: The Biography of Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi by Lucantonio Giunti and its transcription"

445-500pm discussion

SESSION E: CULTURE 2 515-645pm

Presider: Sophia Stefanowski (KU '23). Moderator: T. Corey Brennan

E01 515pm **Christine Kondoleon** (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston) "The Colossal ex-Ludovisi 'Juno' statue in Boston"

E02 530pm **Jacqueline Giz** (Rutgers), "A new account book for the Villa Ludovisi, 1621-1735"

E03 545pm **Isabel Heslin** (Lehigh), "The Ludovisi 'Sallustian' obelisk in Rome"

E04 600pm **Carol Cofone** (Red Bank), "The last inhabitants of Villa Ludovisi"

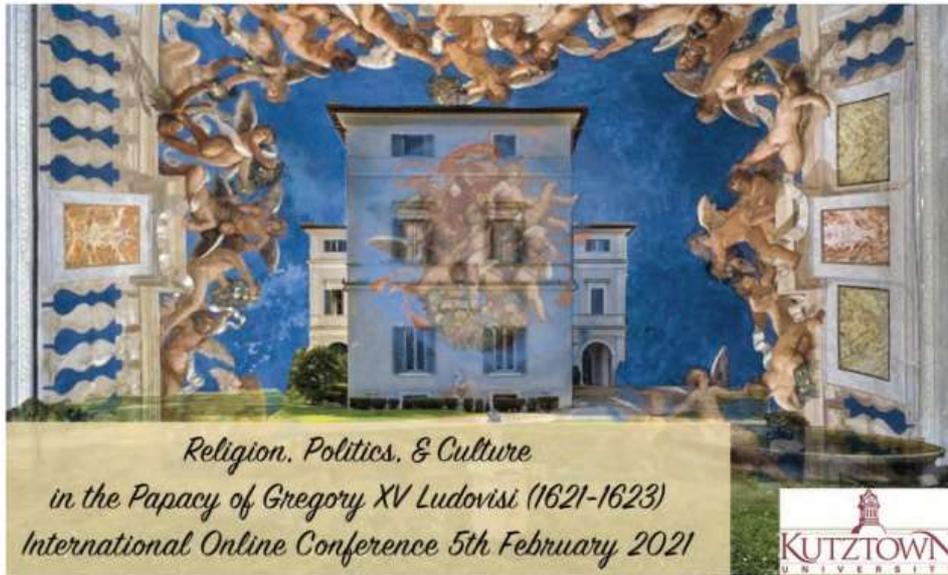
630-645pm discussion

645pm KEYNOTE ADDRESS & CLOSING

Pierette Kulpa (concluding remarks on paper sessions)

T. Corey Brennan (introduction of keynote speaker)

Keynote address: **HSH Princess Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi**
[includes video tour of Casino Aurora]



Design: Alexis Greber (KU '21)

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