Project



On the Paths of Peace:

The Holy Roman Empire as seen through the Travels of the Habsburgs' Courts in 1569-1570

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<u>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, Sveučilišna avenija 4</u> Friday, 14 June 2024, from 15:30 h to 17:00 h in classroom F - 401



From August, 1569 through December, 1570, various Habsburg rulers and their entourages travelled across Central Europe, first to the Hungarian administrative centre of Bratislava, and then across Moravia to the Bohemian capital of Prague. After a winter's stay there, the courts, including those of Emperor Maximilian II and his consort Empress María, along with six of their children, moved again, this time through Nuremberg and other Imperial Free Cities in the Holy Roman Empire, to the Imperial Diet that met in Speyer on the Rhine River from July into December. This presentation will discuss an ongoing book project designed to analyze how Habsburg rule and the Holy Roman Empire functioned in this important period of peace between the famous Peace of Augsburg of 1555 and the outbreak of the Thirty Years War in 1618. The journeys of the courts provided the opportunity for the rulers to be seen and to interact with their subjects and with the significant political actors in the Empire. Although itinerant kingship is normally associated mostly with Medieval rulers, this presentation will discuss how the movement of the Habsburgs' courts through space and time continued to be a significant aspect of their rule.



Joseph F. Patrouch is a historian of Early Modern Europe, with a particular interest in the Holy Roman Empire and the lands ruled by members of the Habsburg Dynasty, both inside the Empire and elsewhere around Europe and the world. His primary chronological period of research concentration is between approximately 1550 and 1650. Additional research interests include the roles of Habsburg women and their courts in early modern Europe, as well as early modern empire and urban studies. He has experience directing a program in Public History and is also interested in museum studies as well as in the study and commemoration of Canada's first national internment operations during and after World War One. His current research project centers on the imagined and experienced landscapes of the Holy Roman Empire in the 1560's and 1570's. From 2011-2021 he was the Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, one of nine research institutes supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Research. In 2020, Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen awarded him the Austrian Medal of Honour for Science and the Arts, First Class.