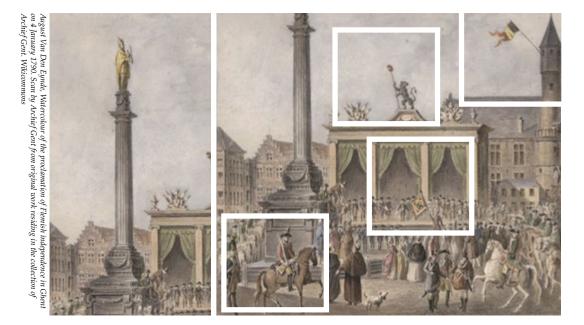
APRIL 11, 2024 START: 16:00 PM AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES GEORG-COCH-PLATZ 2, 1010 WIEN ROOM 4A.1, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR





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## FROM TAX REFORM TO REVOLUTION IN 18<sup>™</sup> CENTURY FLANDERS

## Yannis Skalli-Housseini / Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The Rise of the Fiscal State in Early-Modern Europe – one of the most consequential processes of the period – has amply been studied from the perspective of what made fiscal states successful. However, this rise inevitably also brought with it questions and conflicts about distribution, or what was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century often called 'la justice distributive'. Something that has been brought to attention by researchers of the Modern era like Thomas Piketty ('Capital in the Twenty-First Century') and tentatively for earlier periods by Branko Milanovic ('Visions of Inequality') or the historiography on the French revolution. This paper seeks to consequently apply the inequality perspective to the Early Modern Era, by examining the tax reforms at the level of the Flemish Estates, the most important provincial Estates in the Austrian Netherlands. Based on the arguments and discourses used in the negotiations between the Estates and the central government, as well as within the Estates, it brings to the fore the 'really existing' distributive conflicts as well as their changing conceptualization during the Age of Revolution.

Yannis Skalli-Housseini obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and a MSc in International History from the London School of Economics (LSE). His research focusses on the histories of the state in the early modern and modern economy. He joined the research group Social History of Capitalism (SHOC) in 2020 to work on a PhD project supervised by prof. Dr. Wouter Ryckbosch titled ,In the name of distributive justice: the rise of the fiscal state in the Austrian Netherlands (1749–1794)'.

