ManMAX-Newsletter 1 (2024)

In this newsletter, we would like to introduce you to our interdisciplinary research project **Managing Maximilian (1493–1519) – Persona, Politics, and Personnel through the Lens of Digital Prosopography** (acronym: ManMAX), a new Special Research Program (SFB) funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). As part of this generously funded program, two projects were approved in November 2022 for an initial term of four years. The total budget for the first four years is over 4 million Euros, with a projected extension of a further four years. ManMAX is only the fifth SFB in the field of humanities, social sciences and cultural studies to receive funding under this program, and the first to be managed and coordinated by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The eight subprojects are based at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Universities of Vienna and Graz, the Albertina and the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna.

The project began its work on 1st of March 2023. The ambitious project aims to comprehensively investigate the processes of interdependence not only at the court of Emperor Maximilian I, but also the personal structures of his politics, administration, art and literary production using digital prosopography. It brings together scientists from different disciplines who each contribute their specific expertise to the project. The team is currently comprised of 28 people from different academic career stages and additionally over 30 recognised experts are supporting the project as international cooperation partners.

We invite you to find out more about our SFB and our activities on the following pages and in future issues of this newsletter.

With best wishes, on behalf of the entire SFB team,

Andreas Zajic, Jonathan Dumont and Sonja Dünnebeil

The overall project

While older studies examined structural and administrative changes during the reign of Maximilian I, more recent ones have focussed on the emperor's personality and activities, portraying him as a monomaniacal politician or patron of artistic and cultural productions, a master of media manipulation and impresario of his self-image and political strategy. If earlier accounts overemphasised Maximilian's personal involvement in the conception and execution of his reign, more recent studies have often neglected his crucial interaction with those who implemented his rule. Although the academic research on Maximilian has never denied the importance of the relationships between the actors involved in his rule, it has often neglected to consider his politics and government as the result of networks of individuals, and to examine their functioning by means of prosopographical study.

ManMAX takes a new interpretative approach to Maximilian's reign and to premodern rule and more broadly to governance by systematically examining all levels of his administration, not just the council, senior office-holders or other individuals with personal connections to the ruler or his relatives and confidants at the highest political level. Included are all those involved in Maximilian's wider government who are named in the documentation of his chancellery, from high-ranking members of his court to muleteers. ManMAX aims to provide a comprehensive prosopographical analysis of Maximilian's reign based on new principles of source selection and evaluation.

The central research result will be two freely accessible data collections (in the applications APIS and Ediarum), which will comprise up to 200,000 persons and the nature of their interactions by the end of the eight-year term of the SFB. The sheer mass of this material represents a completely new dimension in Maximilian research.

Stay informed about our current activities via our ManMAX-Blog or follow us on Twitter/X.

Coordination of the overall project:

Andreas Zajic
(PI)

Jonathan Dumont
(Administrative Coordinator)

Sonja Dünnebeil
(Administrative Coordinator)

Austrian Academy of the Sciences, Vienna, Institute for Medieval Studies

The sub-projects

Armouring Maximilian
Chivalry, Tournament, and the Culture of the Gift at the Court of Maximilian

The subproject "Armouring Maximilian" takes a new look at the armour and weapons of Maximilian I, which played a central role in the his self-image. It focuses in particular on the people involved in the production of armour, its procurement and use in battle and tournaments, and as courtly gifts. A dissertation project is examining the armour books, with their numerous depictions of guns and military equipment, in the context of Maximilian I's memorial works and war administration.

Team:

Stefan Krause (PI)   Alexandra Burger   Rahul Kulka

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, *Court Hunting and Armoury Chamber*

(Con)Textualiasing Maximilian

Interaction and Intertextuality, Visible and Invisible Networks in Latin Literature from the Circle of Maximilian

This subproject aims to gain an overview of authors' networks by analysing Latin texts written to and about Maximilian. It analyses their relationships with office-holders at court as well as within an international scholarly community. It devotes particular attention to the performance and reception of panegyric, on the oral delivery of speeches, for example at the 1515 Princely Congress in Vienna, as well as on intertextual references between contemporary poems in praise of Maximilian. Investigating the vexed question of the intended audience of panegyric poetry, the "Reading Maximilian" section will present short investigations of the traces of reception: contemporary judgements, handwritten marginalia in printed books, commentaries and imitations.
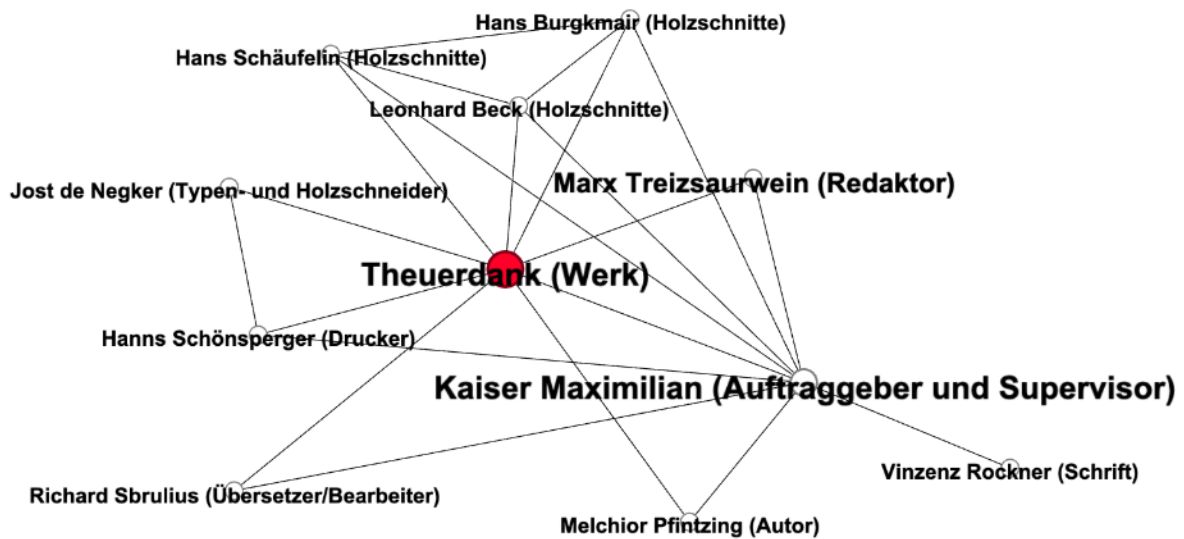
Team:

Elisabeth Klecker (PI) Lukas Ebert

University of Vienna, *Institute for Classical Philology, Medieval and Neo-Latin*

Creating Maximilian
Cultural Networks for the Production of Text and Images around Maximilian

The production of the literary works of fame instigated by Emperor Maximilian I was supported by a personal network that was actively involved in the structures of the court and in central political decision-making. Even when we know that we are dealing with a collective work, our understanding of the texts and images is often based on a paradigm of author and work with Maximilian at its authorial centre. The subproject "Creating Maximilian" challenges this model and seeks to escape from a consideration of the works in Maximilian's environment exclusively from the top-down perspective of an emperor who integrated and directed everything. Instead, it will examine these works from the bottom up, from the perspective of an intricately networked and partially autonomous group of members of the court. Of course, the emperor was also a part of this network, but he did not control and oversee everything. To this end, the subproject will not only contribute to the reconstruction of the network and the working methods of the authors, but will also expand the canon of works that arose in the wider culture of Maximilian's court, including forms of journalism and printed works that are not directly connected to the emperor, but can be seen as an effect of the network.

Team:

Stephan Müller (PI)   Dennis Wegener

University of Vienna, *Institute for German Studies*

Depicting Maximilian
Collaborative Structures behind the Imagery of Maximilian

This subproject, based at the Albertina, is dedicated to the visual arts surrounding Emperor Maximilian I and the recording of all the people involved in its creation. The names of these individuals, including simple craftsman, humanistically educated editor and the personalities depicted or mentioned in the works, are recorded as factoids in the prosopographical data collection (APIS) adapted for Managing Maximilian to clarify networks and render them in visual form. The art-historical research undertaken on the originals has already led to a number of new discoveries relating to the Weißkunig, Triumphal Procession and grave monuments, which will be published soon.

Team:

Christof Metzger (PI)   Erwin Pokorny

Albertina Vienna

Digitising Maximilian
Digital Humanities and the Prosopographical Approach towards the Reign of Maximilian
The "Digitising Maximilian" subproject is responsible for the project's data infrastructure, and prepares the analyses of the personal networks surrounding Emperor Maximilian. The team is developing data models, databases and project-specific user interfaces based on the "factoid model" (Bradley/Short 2005), researching temporal networks and studying how uncertain and indexed data can be incorporated into the analyses.

Team:

Georg Vogeler (PI)   Richard Hadden   Suzana Sagadin   Marcella Tambuscio

University of Graz, Centre for Information Modelling

Document	P1	P2
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#0-8482	O00000617	M00001151
#0-8491	O00000617	M00001151

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Anna von Bretagne

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Maximilian I

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Philipp, der Schöne

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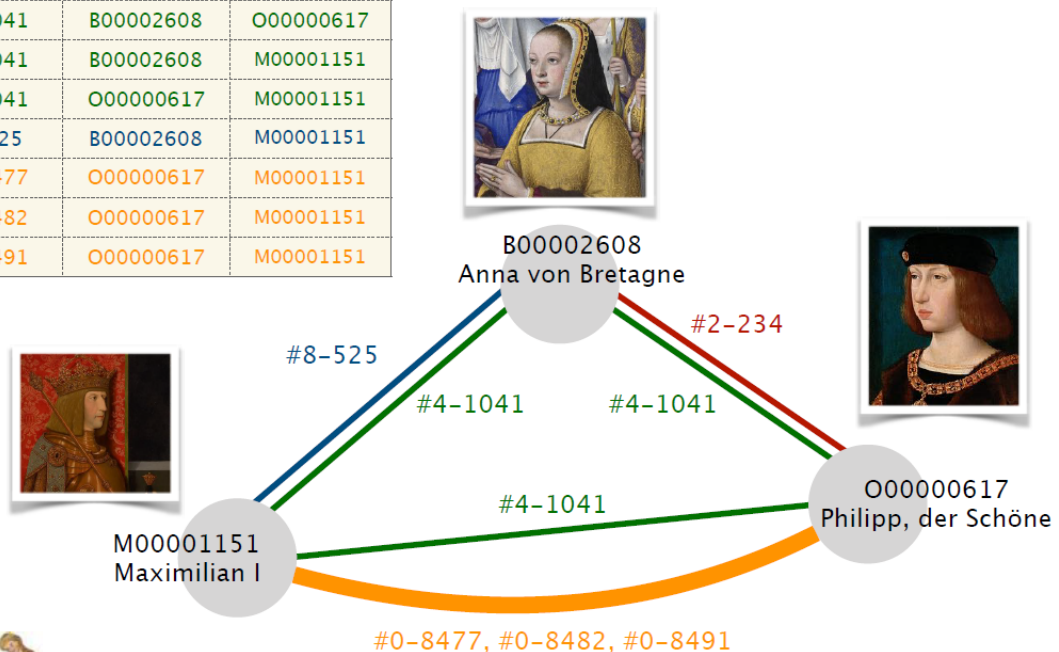
DATA EXTRACTION

Gendering Maximilian

Gendered Dimensions of Court Organisation and Representation

Previously, research on gender relations at the court of Maximilian I has focused mostly on the emperor's dynastic politics. This project aims to shift attention to the many women and men who built and sustained Maximilian´s rule. Its scope will therefore also include the courts and practice of power of Maximilian's wives, his children, and grandchildren as well as diverse networks reaching beyond courtly bounds.

Team:

Christina Lutter (PI)   Judit Majorossy   Christof Muigg   Carina Siegl

University of Vienna, Institute of History

Singing Maximilian

Musical and Cultural Networks at Court and beyond

This subproject thus seeks to investigate much more than simply the music that was performed at court or identify musical sources that can be associated with Maximilian's court or his immediate circle, though these are also amongst its aims. Rather, in line with the prosopographical focus of *ManMax*, it seeks to embed the musical staff of the court within their intersecting roles and spheres of activity, in order to bring music more closely into the heart of the investigation of Maximilian's government.
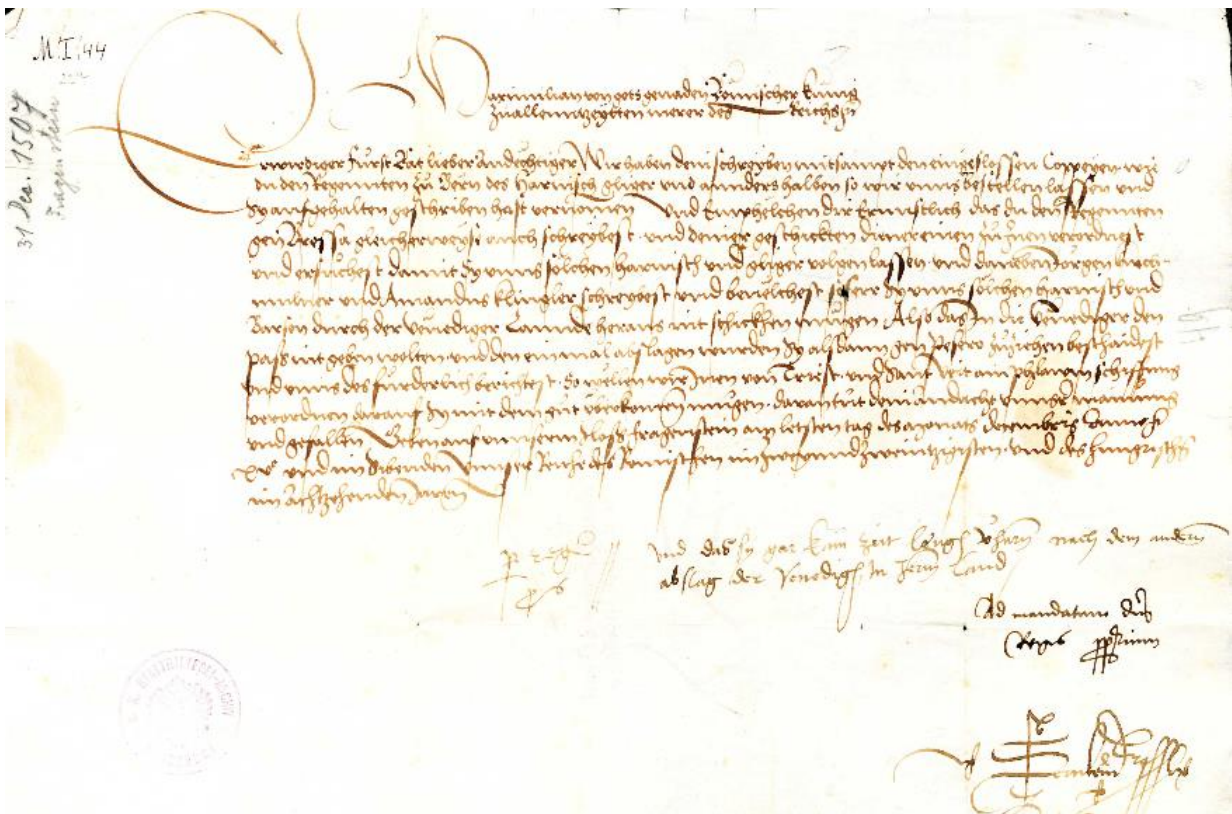
Team:

Birgit Lodes (PI)   Grantley McDonald

University of Vienna, *Institute for Musicology*

[Writing Maximilian](#)

Prince, Pen and Penmanship – Uses of Writing at Court and in the Chancery

This subproject pursues two main objectives. On the one hand, it is cataloguing archival sources relating government activities and administrative practice in the form of several thousand records, in accordance with the guidelines of the [Regesta Imperii series](#). On the other hand, it will produce studies on the use of writing and written material in Maximilian's chancelleries and in the ruler's circle, for example on Maximilian's autograph documents, on the hands of his secretaries and scribes, on the use of codes, and on the chancelleries' recruitment strategies.
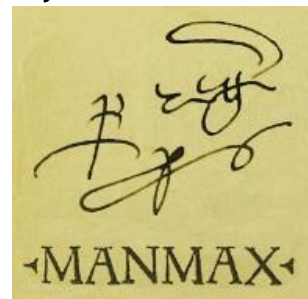
Team:

[Andreas Zajic](#) (PI) [Sonja Lessacher](#) [Iris Palenik](#) [Ronald Salzer](#) [Andrea Singh Bottanová](#)

Austrian Academy of the Sciences, Vienna, [Institute for Medieval Studies](#)

Events

Project presentations 2023:

23 May 2023: Interdisciplinary workshop: [Marienfrömmigkeit am Hof Maximilians I.](#) (Organisation: Team Singing Maximilian), with lectures from the [ManMAX-Team](#):

- **Stephan Müller/Dennis Wegener**: „Gilgengart". Ein Gebetbuch für Frauen als Beispiel für Maximilians strategisches Networking
- **Birgit Lodes**: Maximilian, Obrechts „Missa Maria zart" und die Malafrantzos
- **Elisabeth Klecker**: Maria (?) auf der Suche nach einem Patron. Die immaculata conceptio in Jakob Spiegels Kommentar zum Staurostichon des Gianfrancesco Pico della Mirandola
- **Grantley McDonald**: Notes on the Liturgy at the Court of Frederick III.

5 July 2023: IMC Leeds, Session 1314: „**[Networks and Entanglements](#) at the Time of Maximilian I of Habsburg"**

- Organiser and moderator: **Jonathan Dumont**
- **Andreas Zajic**, Writing Maximilian: Prince, Pen, and Penmanship – Uses of Writing at Court and in the Chancery
- **Rahul Kulka**, Armouring Maximilian: Chivalry, Tournament, and the Culture of the Gift at the Court of Maximilian
- **Grantley McDonald**, Nicolaus Pol, the Calendar Reform of Leo X, and Parallel Networks of Scientific Patronage in Renaissance Vienna

Members of the ManMAX team also gave the following presentations:

21 April 2023: **Andreas Zajic**: Managing Maximilian: ein interdisziplinäres Großprojekt (SFB F9200) zur digitalen Prosopographie von Hof, Herrschaft, Kunst- und Kulturproduktion um 1500, at the workshop: „*[Wien–Berlin](#)*. Hofgesellschaften Digital", Vienna.

29. Juni 2023: **Dennis Wegener**: Im Dienst des Kaisers – Drucke und Drucker aus dem Netzwerk Maximilians I., at the colloquium of the chairs of Prof. Dr. Beate Kellner (LMU München) and Prof. Dr. Stephan Müller (University Vienna), Wrocław University Library.

18.–21. Juli 2023: **Marcella Tambuscio/Richard Hadden/Georg Vogeler:** [Diachronic Evolution](#) of Pros-opographical Networks, Poster at the conference: [Graphen und Netzwerke](#), Mainz.

22. September 2023: **Christina Lutter,** [Gendering](#) Late Medieval Habsburg Dy-nastic Politics – Maximilian I and his Social Networks, Robert A. Kann Memorial Lectures, Chicago.

25. Oktober 2023: **Jonathan Dumont**, From Compromise to Radicalism: The Po-litical Ideas of Maximilian Vilain, Lord of Ressegem at the conference: [Court Culture Exchanges](#) between the Iberian Peninsula and the Habs-burg Netherlands (XVth–XVIth Centuries), Aranjuez.

4. November 2023: **Dennis Wegener**, [Creating Maximilian](#) – Kulturelle Netz-werke zur Produktion von Text und Bildern rund um Maximilian I. (1493–1519), at the collo-quium: „Germanistische Mediävistik" (Prof. Dr. Astrid Lembke), University of Mannheim.

22. November 2023: **Dennis Wegener**, Creating Maximilian – Kulturelle Netzwerke zur Produktion von Text und Bildern rund um Maximilian I. (1493–1519), at the Masters Seminar „Germanis-tische Mediävistik", University of Vienna.

27. November 2023: **Andreas Zajic, Herbert Krammer**, Maximilian I. als Meister der Algorithmen? Perspektiven für den Einsatz von KI bei der Erforschung von Kryptographie um 1500, at the KIMAFO. Workshop on Possibilities and Limits of Artificial Intelligence, IMAFO, Vienna.

29. November 2023: **Marcella Tambuscio/Richard Hadden/Georg Vogeler**, Prosopography of Maxi-milian I (1459–1519): Dealing with Complexity in Historical Archives, at the conference:

[Complex Networks 2023](#). The 12th International Conference on Complex Networks and their Applications, Menton Riviera.

15. Dezember 2023: **Lukas Ebert,** Der Verfasser im Selbstportrait? Untersuchungen zur Inszenierung des Erzählers in der neulateinischen Epik für Kaiser Maximilian I., Faculty-public presentation of his dissertation project, University of Vienna.

18. Dezember 2023: **Carina Siegl**, Nach der Doppelhochzeit: Eine prosopographische und geschlechterhistorische Analyse des Innsbrucker Hofes Marias von Habsburg und Annas Jagiello zwischen 1517 und 1522, at the study conference of the research focus "Österreich in seinem Umfeld" (Peter Becker and Josef Löffler), University of Vienna.

Project activities 2024:

23-25 May 2024: **Kickoff conference** of the CRC: **Managing the Prince. Hidden Actors and the Prosopography of Pre-modern Rulership**, at the WMW Forum of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. In addition to presenting the SFB to a broader specialist audience, we want to discuss the benefits and possibilities of digital prosopographical analyses with numerous international colleagues.
We will inform you about the conference programme shortly!

Three further workshops and two conferences are being prepared for the first half of 2024:

Spring 2024, Vienna: Workshop **Antike(s) Spielen** (Organisation: (Con-)Textualising Maximilian), with contributions on the humanistic reception of ancient dramas, the antique representation of Maximilian's tournaments and the panegyric transformation of epic games.

Spring 2024, Vienna, Workshop **Netzwerk-Methoden/Social Network Analysis** (Organisation: Digitising Maximilian)

25-26 April 2024, Hofburg Vienna, Workshop: **Publizistik und Propaganda im Umfeld Kaiser Maximilians I.** (Organisation: Creating Maximilian; Prof. Dr. Stephan Müller). On 25 April 2024, Prof. Dr. Jan-Dirk Müller will open the workshop with an evening lecture in the Schreyvogelsaal of the Hofburg.

25–26 April 2024, Vienna: Conference **Bellezza e linguaggio/communicazione** (Organisation: Con-Textualising Maximilian together with Antonella Brizioli, Italian Cultural Institute) on humanism and aesthetics of language around 1500, in particular on humanist Latin around 1500 with reference to Maximilian.

15-17 Mai 2024, Vienna: Conference **Eleganza del linguaggio e nobiltà / Adel und Eleganz der Sprache**. Italien und Österreich im Dialog (15.–21. Jh.) (Organisation: Con-Textualising Maximilian together with Antonella Brizioli, Italian Cultural Institute): Section Humanism and Aesthetics of Language around 1500.

Newsletter subscription

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