



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

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**Marsilio Ficino and the Renaissance Ideas of Beauty and Love:
Preparatory Notes for the *De Amore***

Wednesday, 14.06.2017, 6 pm

Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“)

Langer Weg 11, SR 5



This presentation will focus on the contextualised analysis of a set of hitherto unexplored Latin texts that Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499) collected in one of his extant working notebooks – MS Riccardianus 92 – and probably used as a textual basis for his commentary on Plato’s *Symposium*, the *Commentarium in Convivium Platonis De Amore* (1469). The passages preserved in this manuscript contain drafts of complex arguments on the themes of beauty and love that Ficino developed more extensively in his commentary. These arguments, which play a key role in Ficino’s philosophical thought, include his own interpretation of the major Neoplatonic theme of the deity as a sun symbol set at the centre of a hierarchical structure of the universe, and of the famous myth of the Twin Venuses –*Venus Caelestis* and *Venus Vulgaris*–and their corresponding forms of love. The analysis of Ficino’s notes will therefore seek to provide further insight into the study of the genesis of the *De Amore*.