



## **Prof. dr. hab. Grażyna Urban-Godziek**

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### **The Door to Paradise or to Hell? Paraclausthyra of Johannes Secundus**

The night vigil behind the closed door experienced by a rejected poet-lover who tries in vain to gain his beloved's favour and access to her alcove is compared by the Roman elegiacs (Prop. II 17, Tib. I 3) to the infernal torments of the mythical heroes: Tantalus, Ixion, Sisyphus, Tytios. Being very close to their goal, yet unable to get the object of their desire, they suffer a great anxiety. Johannes Secundus (1511–1536) in his three elegies (I 5, II 5 and III 1) in which I will indicate the elements of *Paraclausthyron*, referring to this vision, engages in a polemic with his predecessors. At the same time, it is an ironic reinterpretation of Secundus's own triumphalism, and of his previous belief in the power of his own poetry – the poetry which is actually more important than its subject matter – love. However, behind the closed door and in confrontation with the rival's money, the song loses its supernatural power; and the hurt feeling bring hellish torments to the poet.



Date and Venue:

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 6pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 2  
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck