



## Per Pippin Aspaas, PhD

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### The discovery of northernmost Europe and neo-Latin literature, c. 1480–1780



In order to produce new knowledge, it is not enough to state that “I have been there, and I have seen this with my own eyes”. Documentation beyond that of an eyewitness account is and always was key. Above all, new empirical information needs to be included in a system of knowledge. In this process of systematization, the work of the *Schreibtischforscher* can be just as important as that of the actual explorer. In my talk, I will use the northernmost periphery of Europe and the people living there as a case. How did

neo-Latin scholars situated on the Continent write about this rarely visited region? What rhetorical strategies did they employ to convince their peers about the credibility of the information presented, even in cases when it challenged ancient authorities such as Ptolemy and Pliny?

Date and Venue:

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 6pm  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 1  
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck