

Am Dienstag, dem 10. November 2009,
hält um 18 Uhr c.t.
im HS IV

Prof. Dr. Ingrid de Smet
(Department of French Studies and
Centre for the Study of the Renaissance,
University of Warwick)

einen Vortrag zum Thema:

**Historicizing polemics:
calumny and memory in the Republic of Letters
1560-1630**

Im Namen
der Abteilung für Griechische und Lateinische Philologie
und des Centre for the Classical Tradition
laden hierzu herzlich ein:

D. GALL

M. LAUREYS

T. SCHMITZ

This is a thematic investigation into defamatory practices in the Republic of Letters of the late sixteenth century and first half of the seventeenth century, especially among the humanist networks centring on France and the Low Countries. Against a background of civil war in either region, scholars of repute or of high public visibility (such as Joseph Scaliger or Justus Lipsius), were prone to being vilified in both intellectual and personal terms and indeed were themselves no strangers to abusive language. Drawing on an array of humanist writing (poetry, letters, etc.) as well as on polemical output by theologians, this paper will first recapitulate how gossip and calumny were conceived of at the intersection of humanistic and religious debate. Most importantly, the paper will demonstrate that preserving the memory of such clashes and altercation contributed to the sense of self and community amongst scholarly elite.