

The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences would like to invite you to a seminar in the series

***“Men and Ideas in the Renaissance”***

to be held at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology  
PAN  
(Staszic Palace, room 154, 1th floor)  
**23.11. 2017 (Thursday) at 3.00 p.m.**

**Jan Waszink**  
(Universiteit Leiden)

will present a paper entitled

***The interpretation of Lipsius's Politica:  
from context to content***

The organizers:

Danilo Facca  
Valentina Lepri

## Abstract

Lipsius' much-discussed *Politicorum sive Civilis Doctrinae libri sex* (1589), or "Six books of Politics or Political Instruction" shall be located in its immediate historical and intellectual context, problematising the peculiar format of the work, a *Cento* or 'garment of quotations'. A consideration in close conjunction of the content and the form of the work opens new perspectives on the relationship with its immediate historical and intellectual context, and produces an interpretation in which the work appears first and foremost as a text on *Reason of State* and not so much as a piece of 'Neostoic' political thought, as one influential line of interpretations has supposed.

Jan Waszink (1969) is Lecturer and Researcher in the Dept. of Public international Law, Leiden University. He has published extensively on the political thought of Justus Lipsius (notably: Justus Lipsius, *Politica. Six books of Politics or Political Instruction*. Ed. with translation and introduction, 2004) and Hugo Grotius, their use of rhetoric in politically charged contexts, and on 16th- and 17th-century Tacitism.