

The Fifty-Sixth Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



**“Neither Poor nor Rich:
Shopping, Investing, and Retiring in Renaissance Europe**

A workshop featuring:

Aina Palarea (European University Institute, Florence). *“Shopping for Italian Silk in Fifteenth-Century Catalonia”*

Éric Pecile (University of Toronto). *“Getting by Comfortably in Early Modern Europe”*

Johannes Ludwig Maria Pelzl (European University Institute, Florence). *“Purchasing a Spot in an Early Modern Retirement Home in Southern Germany”*

Thursday, 4 March 2021, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

To attend this workshop, please RSVP to italian.studies@utoronto.ca. One day before the event you will receive an email containing access information for the workshop.

This workshop focuses on the middle classes of 15th and 16th-century western Europe. As social and economic actors, these people in-between – neither the wealthiest nor the destitute – bought, sold, invested, and consumed, in distinctive ways that have been overlooked in much scholarship on the Renaissance. Each exploring a different region in Spain, Italy, and Germany, the papers examine shopping for fashionable fabrics, managing finances for a comfortable livelihood, and planning for retirement.



Aina Palarea is a PhD candidate in the Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence. She is working on her dissertation entitled “Standards of Living and Consumption Patterns in Late Medieval Catalonia (1400-1460).”

Éric Pecile is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. He is completing his dissertation entitled “Private Wealth, Public Profits: Moral Economies in Sixteenth-Century Italy.” Éric is also a researcher for the Digitally Encoded Census and Information Mapping Archive project.

Johannes Ludwig Maria Pelzl is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence. He also holds a master’s degree in Political Science from Heidelberg University (2017) and another in Economic History from the University of Lund (2018).

Image: Marinus van Reymerswaele, *The Moneychanger and his Wife* (1539), Museo del Prado, Madrid. Public Domain.