

# Secret Councils: Comparative Perspectives on Monarchies and Republics, c. 1550-1800

University of Bern, Institute of History

Thursday & Friday, 20-21 June 2024  
Mittelstrasse 43, Room 320

International Workshop, organised by Debora Heim and Nadir Weber

## Thursday, 20 June 2024

14.00–14.30

**Debora Heim and Nadir Weber (Bern)**

Introduction

14.30–15.30

**Cédric Michon (Rennes)**

Councils and councillors in Renaissance Europe

### Section 1: Secret councils in monarchies (Chair: Sarah Rindlisbacher Thomi)

15.45–16.30

**Cathleen Sarti (Oxford)**

From the aristocratic gehejmeråd to the absolutist gehejmekonseil: The secret council in early modern Denmark

16.30–17.15

**Adriano Comissoli (Santa Maria)**

Information policy and communication circuits in the Portuguese Monarchy, 1777 to 1812

18.00

**Dinner**

## Friday, 21 June 2024

### Section 2: Political secrecy in the Swiss Republics (Chair: Nadir Weber)

9.00–9.45

**Debora Heim (Bern)**

Secret councils in the early modern Swiss Confederacy (16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century)

9.45–10.30

**Andreas Würigler (Geneva)**

Open secrets? The Swiss diet and republican politics in the early modern Confederacy

### Section 3: Secret councils in diplomatic relations (Chair: Andreas Berger)

10.45–11.30

**Boro Bronza (Banja Luka)**

Secrecy in relations between the Republic of Ragusa and Austria throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century

11.30–12.15

**Dorottya Piroska Bajorné Székely (Budapest)**

An archbishop and his Viennese information network: Hungarian cases in the privy council and conference at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century

12.15–13.30

**Lunch Break**

### Section 4: Secret councils, clerical states, and confession (Chair: Debora Heim)

13.30–14.15

**Sven Dittmar (Mainz)**

Secret councils in clerical states: The case of the Electorate of Mainz

14.15–15.00

**Hannes Ziegler (München)**

Confessional councils: The impact of religious divisions on the politics of secret councils in the Holy Roman Empire, ca. 1540-1620

15.30–16.45

**André Holenstein (Bern)**

Closing comment and final discussion

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