

In 1810, Napoleon Bonaparte famously married Marie Louise of Austria, daughter of Emperor Francis I. This union symbolized the continuing relevance of dynastic politics in the Napoleonic era, as one of the continent's youngest dynasties allied itself with one of its oldest in a strategic play of prestige and power. Despite the upheavals of the preceding decades, ruling houses had remained an essential element of the European political landscape, coexisting with the revolutionary state that sought to dismantle the institutional legacy of the *ancien régime*.

In recent decades, historians have shed new light on the nature and dynamics of European dynasties in the pre-modern period. Moving away from the older focus on the male heads of ruling families, the recent trends in dynastic history emphasize previously overlooked aspects, such as the roles played by non-ruling women and the social and cultural construction of dynasties. However, this shift has hardly extended to the study of dynasties after 1789.

This workshop seeks to fill the gap by examining ruling houses as family power networks – explicitly conceived across gender boundaries – during the age of revolution between 1780 and 1850. Rather than seeing dynasties as passive holdovers from the past, we aim to explore their inner logic and functionality as well as their continued relevance as instruments of power, negotiation, and governance in states from the lesser German principalities to the great imperial monarchies. The workshop will assess how dynasties adapted to the rapidly changing political landscape, while simultaneously recalculating their sources of legitimacy.

#### ORGANISATION:

William D. Godsey / Stefano Poggi / Joost Welten  
Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences

#### REGISTRATION:

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ihb/aktuelles/ anmeldungen-zu-ihb-veranstaltungen/ruling-dynasties-in-the-age-of-revolution-1780-1850>

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**FWF** Österreichischer  
Wissenschaftsfonds

Cover Picture: The religious marriage of Napoleon and Marie-Louise in the Salon Carré at the Louvre on April 2, 1810. Painting (1810) by Rouget Georges (1783-1869). © GrandPalaisRmn (Château de Versailles) / Gérard Blot.

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AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
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12–14 NOVEMBER, 2025  
INSTITUTE FOR HABSBURG  
AND BALKAN STUDIES  
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
GEORG COCH PLATZ 2, 1010 VIENNA



WORKSHOP

# RULING DYNASTIES IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION 1780–1850

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PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER	
19:00–20:15	<b>Public Lecture</b> Moderation: William Godsey   Vienna  <b>Dominic Lieven</b>   Cambridge <i>Monarchy, Dynasty, Empire: The Napoleonic Era in Historical Perspective</i>
THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER	
08:30–09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00–09:10	<b>Greeting</b> <b>Katrin Keller</b>   Director, Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies of the OeAW
09:10–09:30	<b>Greeting and Introduction</b> <b>William Godsey</b>   Vienna  <b>PANEL: DYNASTIES AND REVOLUTION</b> <i>Chair: Leonhard Horowski   Berlin</i>
09:30–09:50	<b>Benôit Carré</b>   Trier <i>The Political Division of the House of France: 1787–1789</i>
09:50–10:10	<b>Jan Markert</b>   Trier <i>A Dynasty Divided: Friedrich Wilhelm IV, Wilhelm I and the Struggle for Prussia and Germany</i>
10:10–10:45	<b>Discussion</b>
10:45–11:15	COFFEE BREAK  <b>PANEL: RELATIONS WITHIN DYNASTIES</b> <i>Chair: Liesbeth Geevers   Lund</i>
11:15–11:35	<b>Stefano Poggi</b>   Vienna <i>The Austria-Este Family: Two Dynasties in One?</i>
11:35–11:55	<b>Jasper van der Steen</b>   Leiden <i>House Regulations in Crisis? The Nassaus and Dynastic Resilience around 1800</i>
11:55–12:30	<b>Discussion</b>
12:30–13:45	LUNCH BREAK

PANEL: DYNASTY & GOVERNMENT	
<i>Chair: Luc Duerloo   Antwerp</i>	
13:45–14:05	<b>Joost Welten</b>   Vienna <i>Running the Habsburg Empire as a Family Affair: the War of 1809</i>
14:05–14:25	<b>Munro Price</b>   Bradford <i>Adélaïde d’Orléans: Female Power in the Age of Revolution</i>
14:25–15:00	<b>Discussion</b>
15:00–15:30	COFFEE BREAK  <b>PANEL: DYNASTY AND POST-REVOLUTIONARY LEGITIMIZATION</b> <i>Chair: Jonathan Singerton   Amsterdam</i>
15:30–15:50	<b>Maximilian Vissers</b>   Würzburg <i>Balancing Tradition and Change: The Dynastic Strategies of Max I Joseph of Bavaria</i>
15:50–16:10	<b>Mathieu Mensch</b>   Strasbourg <i>The Bourbons in France : Returning, Defining and Perpetuating the Dynasty: 1814–1816</i>
16:10–17:00	<b>Discussion</b>

FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

PANEL: DYNASTY AND WOMEN	
<i>Chair: Philip Mansel   London</i>	
09:00–09:20	<b>Julia Hasselhorn</b>   Frankfurt <i>Strategic Communication in the Age of Revolution: Political (Self-) Representation of the Queens in Naples and Bavaria, 1780–1825</i>
09:20–09:40	<b>Ainoa Chinchilla</b>   Madrid <i>Strategies to Protect the Bourbon Dynasty: Carlos IV, María Luisa, and Carlota Joaquina Against the Threats of Napoleon</i>
09:40–10:00	<b>Lisa Castro</b>   Paris <i>The Role of Women in the Establishment of the Bernadotte Dynasty: the Cases of Queen Consort Désirée and Princess Joséphine 1810–1844</i>
10:00–11:00	<b>Discussion</b>
11:00–11:30	COFFEE BREAK

PANEL: DYNASTIC REPRESENTATION	
<i>Chair: Waltraud Schütz   Vienna</i>	
11:30–11:50	<b>Hannah Boeddeker</b>   Hamburg <i>‘Le plus ferme appui des monarchies’? The ‘Gotha’ in the Age of Revolutions</i>
11:50–12:10	<b>Werner Telesko</b>   Vienna <i>Representation as a ‘Flexible Response’. On the Visual Strategies of Emperor Francis II (I) (1768–1835)</i>
12:10–12:45	<b>Discussion</b>
12:45–13:45	LUNCH BREAK  <b>PANEL: THINKING DYNASTY IN THE REVOLUTIONARY AGE</b> <i>Chair: Helen Watanabe-O’Kelly   Oxford</i>
13:45–14:05	<b>Michael Broers</b>   Oxford <i>The Bonapartes: The Paradoxes of Dynasticism Born of Revolution. The First Empire, 1804–1815</i>
14:05–14:25	<b>Michael Rowe</b>   London <i>Family and Governance in Napoleon’s Empire</i>
14:25–14:45	<b>Ambrogio Caiani</b>   Canterbury <i>Dynasty, Ideology and War 1815–1850</i>
14:45–15:45	<b>Discussion</b>
15:45–16:15	COFFEE BREAK  <b>Closing Commentary</b> <i>Moderation: William Godsey   Vienna</i>
16:15–16:25	<b>Damien Tricoire</b>   Trier
16:25–16:35	<b>Helen Watanabe-O’Kelly</b>   Oxford
16:35–16:45	<b>Monika Wienfort</b>   Potsdam