

**TOMASZ HEN-KONARSKI**

Instytut Historii im. Tadeusza Manteuffla Polskiej Akademii Nauk  
Rynek Starego Miasta 29/31, 00-272 Warsaw, Poland  
(0048) 501 532 529 · (0048) 22 831 02 61

<https://neustern.ihpan.edu.pl/> · [tomasz.hen.konarski@gmail.com](mailto:tomasz.hen.konarski@gmail.com) · [then@ihpan.edu.pl](mailto:then@ihpan.edu.pl)

---

**The Dalmatian Mission of Galicia's Greek Catholic Metropolitanate, 1819-1823:  
A Case Study in Habsburg Confessional Politics of the Early Nineteenth Century**

On June 10, 1821 Oleksii Stupnytskyi, a canon of the Greek Catholic cathedral chapter of Przemyśl, was shot dead in broad daylight in Šibenik. Although no perpetrators were ever caught, it was widely believed that Stupnytskyi was killed by Orthodox hardliners fearing that the Greek Catholic priest had been sent from Vienna to lure Dalmatia's Orthodox Christians into a church union with Rome.

How did a high-ranking Greek Catholic clergyman from Galicia end up enmeshed in the internecine struggle tearing apart the Orthodox community in the Habsburg Kingdom of Dalmatia? Why would the exhausted post-1815 Austrian state support a risky project that seemed to belong to the bygone era of the Counter-Reformation? What was the role of the elite Greek Catholic ecclesiastics in shaping the confessional policies of the Habsburg government? How important was Catholicism for the official identity of the expressly diverse Austrian Monarchy?

In this paper, I draw on little known documents collected and published by Kyrylo Studynskyi, a leading Ukrainian historian active in interwar Poland, to reconstruct the history of this unusual (and ultimately unsuccessful) Dalmatian mission conducted by the Greek Catholic Metropolitanate of Galicia. I will use this obscure episode to reflect on the securitisation of confessional issues in the Austrian Monarchy of the early nineteenth century, on the agency of second-tier regional elites in shaping Vienna's policies, and on the practical limits of state power.

**Christopher Wendt** – PhD Researcher, European University Institute, Florence, Italy  
*Currently a CEU-CIVICA Teaching Fellow at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary*  
[christopher.wendt@eui.eu](mailto:christopher.wendt@eui.eu)

### **With God into the New Era: Reviving Catholic Authority after Empire in an Austrian Province**

The end of the Great War in November 1918 set all of Habsburg Tyrol before an unknown future. This was true not only for Trentino and South Tyrol, which were claimed by Italy, but also for North and East Tyrol, which eventually became part of the new Republic of German-Austria. For this latter territory's political Catholic elites, questions of state future were not the only pressing concerns. Alongside the Catholic Church, conservative elites had supported the Habsburg war effort to the bitter end; in the post-war moment, they feared being called to account. My contribution focuses on this overlooked moment of conservative insecurity during the post-imperial transition in Austrian North Tyrol by examining political Catholics' strategies to resuscitate their authority. As I show, their response mixed the religious, the political, and the social. Priests strove to pacify recalcitrant parishioners, Christian Social politicians worked to mollify disgruntled rural farmers, and Catholic lay activists labored to reinvigorate broken associational networks. In the end, these endeavors proved to be successful—but this outcome was never a foregone conclusion. Going against long-held assumptions on the fundamental nature of Tyrolean conservatism and religiosity, I point to the resistance, fears, and anxieties that colored this process. Ultimately, I mean to show that for political Catholics in this Austrian “black” province, the transition from empire to republic was not so simple. Rather, significant efforts were needed to reassert Tyrolean Catholic conservatism and make it sustainable for the “new era.”

**Dr Katalin Pataki**

Postdoctoral research fellow

Hungarian Research Network, Centre for the Humanities

Budapest 1097, Tóth Kálmán u. 4.

patakikatalin@gmail.com

## **Negotiating the Oath of Allegiance in the Habsburg Realms between 1781-1848**

This paper investigates how the oath of loyalty sworn to the Pope by the bishops at their consecration became a point of clash between ecclesiastical and state power in the Habsburg Lands from the 1760s. To counterbalance the papal oath, Joseph II introduced a uniform oath of allegiance sworn to the sovereign in all Habsburg realms from 1781.

By looking at three cases – the (arch)bishops of Milan, Olomouc, and Pécs – the talk will first explore how the boundaries of episcopal power were negotiated in the 1760s and 1770s by referring both to the oath required by the Pope and the fealty sworn to the ruler as feudal overlord and how the notion and vocabulary of the new oath of allegiance evolved.

By examining individual cases from various parts of Habsburg realms, this paper highlights the significance of the new oath not as a means to control papal power, but as the inherent sacralization of state-building endeavors that aimed to override the legal particularism of the individual lands.

The ceremonial aspects of oath-taking are complemented by the examination of the paper trail of the paper copy of the oath. The text of the oath was signed, stamped, and forwarded to various governmental offices that gave access to the episcopal estates of the bishop, while the Papal Bull issued at the appointment of a bishop (including the oath to the Pope) also remained an important document of the process and its copies are usually included in the files, too. Asserting the right to control the content of the Papal Bull as a form of communication with Rome (*Placetum Regium*) was strongly intertwined with the introduction of the oath of allegiance and, therefore, this study also addresses the question how the text of the oath gained its power and meaning by being attached to other accompanying documents.