

# Lordship and State (De-) Formation: Bohemia from the Thirty Years' War to Charles VI

5:30 pm on Dec 5, 2017  
CEU—Gellner Room  
Budapest, Nádor u. 9



CENTER FOR EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

**Stephan Sander-Faes**  
Department of History,  
University of Zurich

The lecture focuses on administrative confusion and social disruptions in the Habsburg monarchy from the Thirty Years' War to Charles VI (r. 1711-40). The lecture will demonstrate that these two aspects were the by-product of state formation in early modern composite monarchies. Whereas the advent of the 'fiscal-military state' (Brewer 1989) transformed our understanding of central bureaucracies over the past three decades, these days most studies of early modern state formation apply top-down perspectives.



*The battle of Vienna in 1683, painting by Frans Geffels (Badisches Landesmuseum)*

By contrast, the paper approaches the Habsburg monarchy's re-emergence after 1648 based on two distinctively different premises: First, individual actions and structural developments entail differing consequences for central institutions and the geographically more remote areas; and, second, by analysing these developments from outside the courtly and urban settings, Sander-Faes is arguing that state integration in the centre was accompanied by increasing state *disintegration* and loss of cohesion on the lower administrative levels. As the central government tried to cope with war-induced stress, its actions started to tear apart the administrative and social fabric that held traditional society together. By emphasising the crucial role of local actors, regional interlinkages, and the disintegrating consequences that warfare had on state formation, Sander-Faes offers a counter-narrative to traditional interpretations in the fields of History, IR, and Historical Sociology.

**Stephan Sander-Faes** received his PhD in 2011 from the University of Graz, Austria, with a study on a mostly overlooked area and period, the 16th-century Venetian Adriatic. He argued for a broader perception of (urban) elites in order to more inclusively reconstruct the interrelated issues of socio-economic change and geographical as well as social mobilities. His first book, *Urban Elites of Zadar—Dalmatia and the Venetian Commonwealth (1540-1569)* was published in 2013 and well received. As a senior researcher and teaching associate at the University of Zurich, he focuses on a different subject: since 2011 he has been working on Bohemia and the Habsburg monarchy, in which project he attempts to overcome historiographical traditions that continue to be circumscribed by linguistic and national boundaries.