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The Institute for Advanced Study
is pleased to present

A Visting Fellow Lecture

Dr. Jean-François Cottier
Professor of Latin at the
Paris Diderot University



L'ignorance vaincue, Fiorentino, 1535-1540

“Learning is Necessary to the Prince” (Plutarch): Reflections on the Image of the Prince in Humanist Writings

À la suite des *Miroirs* médiévaux, les humanistes n'ont cessé d'écrire des conseils à l'intention des souverains de leur temps, en soutenant régulièrement leur réflexion par la représentation du « souverain monstrueux ». Érasme s'en explique : pour éduquer un prince, il faut user d'images, et rien de plus efficace que le diptyque opposant le bon prince, « pasteur de son peuple » au *démoboros* qui, littéralement, le *dévore*. Cette image, emblématisée par Ambrogio Lorenzetti en 1338 dans la Palais Communal de Sienne sous le nom de « Bon gouvernement », servira de fil conducteur à une réflexion générale sur la diversité des écrits que la Renaissance a consacrés à cette question, les humanistes ayant toujours rêvé, avec le succès que l'on sait, d'orienter l'action des princes de ce monde par leurs écrits.

Since the medieval *Mirrors*, humanists have continually written advice for the sovereigns of their time, regularly supporting their reflection with the representation of the “monstrous sovereign”. Erasmus explains: to educate a prince, one must use images, and nothing is more effective than the diptych opposing the good prince, “pastor of his people,” to the *démoboros* that literally devours them. This image, symbolized by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in 1338 in the Communal Palace of Siena under the name of “Good Government,” will serve as a guide to a general reflection on the diversity of writings that the Renaissance has devoted to this topic. Humanists having always dreamed, we know how successfully, of directing the action of the princes of this world with their writings.

Cottier is a Professor of Latin at the University of Paris Diderot and adjunct professor at the University of Montreal. He is currently conducting research on the poetics of paraphrase (Biblical epics, paraphrases of the Scriptures) and the humanistic exegesis of the Bible, while continuing the translation of great medieval and modern texts such as the *Book of Gomorrah* by Pierre Damien, treatises on epistolary writing by Erasmus, and the *De Alea* by Juste Pasquier.

Monday, April 3rd, 2017
3:30 p.m.

Global and International Studies Building, Room GA3067

Dr. Cottier's lecture is open to the IU community and the general public.
Light refreshments will be served.

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