



AFTERNOONS WITH DARIAH

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 12:00

Unlocking the Schematismus: A Machine Learning and Data- driven Approach to Habsburg History

Institute of Contemporary History
(Privoz 11, 1000 Ljubljana) &
Online : [ZOOM](#)

The presentation offers an overview of the FWF-funded research group "Unlocking the Schematismus" (UTS), which employs cutting-edge machine learning and data science methods to unlock one of the most comprehensive historical sources on the Habsburg Monarchy. The Schematismus—personnel directories published continuously from the 18th to the early 20th century—contains detailed information about hundreds of thousands of civil servants, military officers, clergy, and other middle-class actors who shaped Central European history.

The presentation will outline the project's interdisciplinary methodology, its technical innovations in layout detection and OCR for historical sources, and its contribution to reinterpreting Habsburg statehood and society in the long 19th century.

Wolfgang Göderle is Research Group Leader and Senior Postdoc at the Centre for Information Modelling, University of Graz, where he leads the FWF Research Group "Unlocking the Schematismus" (RG3100). Since October 2025, he also serves as Professor of Computational Humanities at the University of Passau (substituting for Malte Rehbein). He studied History at the University of Graz and Sciences-Po Paris, earning his doctorate in 2014. He is also a Research Associate at the Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology in Jena and teaches Digital History at the University of Ljubljana. His research focuses on Central European history, digital history, and computational methods in the humanities.

