

# The Cultures of Vigilance

*Towards a History of 'private' Watchfulness*

DATE AND TIME

Thursday, 30 April 2026 • 9:15 AM – 11:45 AM EDT / 15:15 – 17:45 CEST

LOCATION

Online, via Zoom — RSVP required

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**SPEAKER**

**Arndt Brendecke**

Chair of Early Modern History, LMU Munich. His research centers on the history of knowledge, information, and political practices in early modern Europe and the Iberian colonial world. His book *The Empirical Empire* (2012) examined how Spain sought to govern its overseas territories through the systematic collection of knowledge. Since 2019, he has led the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1369 "Cultures of Vigilance," investigating the historical role of private watchfulness and attention in society. Member of the Academia Europaea and the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

**RESPONDENTS**

**Daniel Jütte**

Professor of History, New York University. His work explores cultural history, material culture, the history of knowledge, and Jewish history in early modern and modern Europe. Author of *The Age of Secrecy* (2015) and *Transparency: The Material History of an Idea* (2023). Recipient of the Dan David Prize (2024).

**Monika Mommertz**

Early Modern History, University of Basel. Her research spans the history of knowledge and science, the history of violence, and the history of religion, often in gender and global perspectives. Recent publications include edited volumes on heroisation in science and knowledge production (2018) and on body, power, and gender from the Middle Ages to the present (2020).

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REGISTER VIA ZOOM

<https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/8Yk6jeMHS7OPgmuRZ-rMzQ>

Co-organised by Yuval Givon (Jerusalem), Anja-Silvia Goeing (Harvard) and Philippe Bernhard Schmid (Basel)

Co-hosted by the University of Basel, Harvard University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, LMU Munich and the University of Zurich

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