

Randolph Conrad Head

Concise Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

Professor of the Graduate Division, University of California, Riverside, 2021-present
Professor of History, University of California, Riverside, 1992-2021: Assistant Professor to
Professor VIII.

Education

Ph.D. and M.A, History, University of Virginia, 1992. Fields: Early Modern Europe, Colonial
Latin America.

A.B., Social Anthropology, magna cum laude, Harvard College, 1979.

Selected Fellowships and Honors

Herzog-August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany: Senior Stipendiate, 2015-16

Newberry Library / National Endowment for the Humanities: Research Fellowship, 2011-2012

American Philosophical Society: Research Fellow, 2007-2008

School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ: Member, Fall 2002

**«Demokratie im frühneuzeitlichen Graubünden: Populäre Politik zwischen
Einschränkung von Herrschaft und ‘anti-Demokratie’ im 16. und 17.
Jahrhundert»**

(Democracy in early modern Graubünden: Popular politics between elite constraint and ‘anti-democracy’ in the 16th and 17th centuries)

Randolph C. Head
Professor of the Graduate Division
University of California, Riverside

Beitrag zu der Tagung: **Der Kanton Graubünden und sein Beitrag für die direkte
Demokratie in der Schweiz, Oktober 2021**

Abstract

Direct democracy in diverse forms has played a significant role in Western political practice and political theory since Antiquity. Its emergence generally has close connections with perceptions that a broader population of social stakeholders is experiencing exploitation or oppression, on the one hand; and with efforts to create unity, consensus, and legitimacy of governance institutions, on the other. This contribution will consider developments in the III Leagues in Graubünden in light of three perspectives. First, I will establish certain features of broad political participation in Graubünden that help define a type of characteristically ‘early modern democracy’. Second, I will consider ‘anti-Democracy’ (Cesare Cuttica), an intellectual approach which appeared in abundant literature as far away as England, as a hitherto neglected context for public discussions of democracy in 16th- and 17th-century Europe, including Graubünden. Finally, I will reconsider key moments in Graubünden’s democratic history, including the formative period of the Bundesbrief and Ilanzer Artikel (1524-26), the major popular intervention of 1585 (Clävner Artikelbrief), and the crisis of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1639), arguing that popular understandings of democracy in the III Leagues’ displayed a dynamic tension between discourses of participation in governance and discourses of elite constraint that served to undermine anti-democracy critiques.