

The Fifty-Fifth Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**
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Damiano Acciarino
(Università Ca' Foscari, Venice)

“Antiquarian Readings of the Last Supper between Renaissance and Reformation”

Tues., 31 March 2020
4:00 p.m.

Senior Common Room
Victoria College (rear of
91 Charles St. West)
University of Toronto

The Gospel narratives of the Last Supper raise some of the most complex and controversial issues ever discussed during the Renaissance, not only by Biblical philologist, but also



by antiquarians, iconographers, and artists. That is because Sacred Scripture offered only brief accounts of the event, often ambiguous and misleading, and left room for assumptions and additions based on erudite, but also ideological, patterns. This talk reconstructs the terms of this debate, which, starting from Lorenzo Valla's exegesis of the New Testament, involved scholars such as Erasmus, Girolamo Mercuriale, Emmanuel Tremellius, Pedro Chacón, Johann Wilhelm Stucki, and many others. Textual information will be cross-referenced with early modern artworks and archaeological findings to illustrate the complex weave of literary and visual sources that were part to this intricate cultural dynamic.

Damiano Acciarino is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-doctoral Fellow at the Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia. He is the author of *Lettere sulle Grottesche* (Rome, 2018) and *De' Conviti degli Antichi. Opera adespota* (Padua, 2012) and editor of the essay collection *Paradigms of Renaissance Grottesques* (Toronto, 2019).

Image: Leonardo da Vinci, “Last Supper” (late 1490s), Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan.