1. Record Nr. UNINA9910833097803321

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Titolo	Notions of Privacy at Early Modern European Courts : Reassessing the Public and Private Divide, 1400-1800
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , 2024 ©2024
ISBN	1-04-078583-2 1-003-70076-4 1-04-079181-6 90-485-5515-9
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (306 pages)
Collana	Early Modern Court Studies ; ; v.3.
Classificazione	NN 1400
Altri autori (Persone)	NørgaardLars Cyril WoodacreElena
Disciplina	306.0940903
Soggetti	HISTORY / Europe / General
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

Grand, extravagant, magnificent, scandalous, corrupt, political, personal, fractious; these are terms often associated with the medieval and early modern courts. Moreover, the court constituted a forceful nexus in the social world, which was central to the legitimacy and authority of rulership. As such, courts shaped European politics and culture: architecture, art, fashion, patronage, and cultural exchanges were integral to the spectacle of European courts. Researchers have convincingly emphasised the public nature of courtly events, procedures, and ceremonies. Nevertheless, court life also involved pockets of privacy, which have yet to be systematically addressed. This edited collection addresses this lacuna and offers interpretations that urge us to reassesses the public nature of European courts. Thus, the proposed publication will fertilise the grounds for a discussion of the past and future of court studies. Indeed, the contributions make us reconsider present-day understandings of privacy as a stable and uncontestable notion.