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### **No need for explanation? The political debates around Gábor Bethlen's election as king of Hungary in 1620**

The seminar addresses the question how the election of Gábor Bethlen, prince of Transylvania at the diet of Besztercebánya in the summer of 1620 was justified in the political texts of the period. The unusual legal act, which implied (although explicitly did not stipulate) the deposition of the king of Hungary, Ferdinand II of Habsburg, who had been elected and crowned two years before, took place in a period which brought many novelties in the field of political communication in Hungary. It happened for the first time in the years between 1619 and 1621 that argumentative texts written by prominent agents of specific political camps in Hungary appeared in print, and entered in a discussion with each other. It is therefore quite astonishing that - contrary to the case of Frederick of the Palatinate's election as king of Bohemia (which took place only a year earlier) - no lengthy explanation was published on the act of changing the ruler. After mapping up the complex surviving material, the seminar will test various possible explanations for this lacuna.