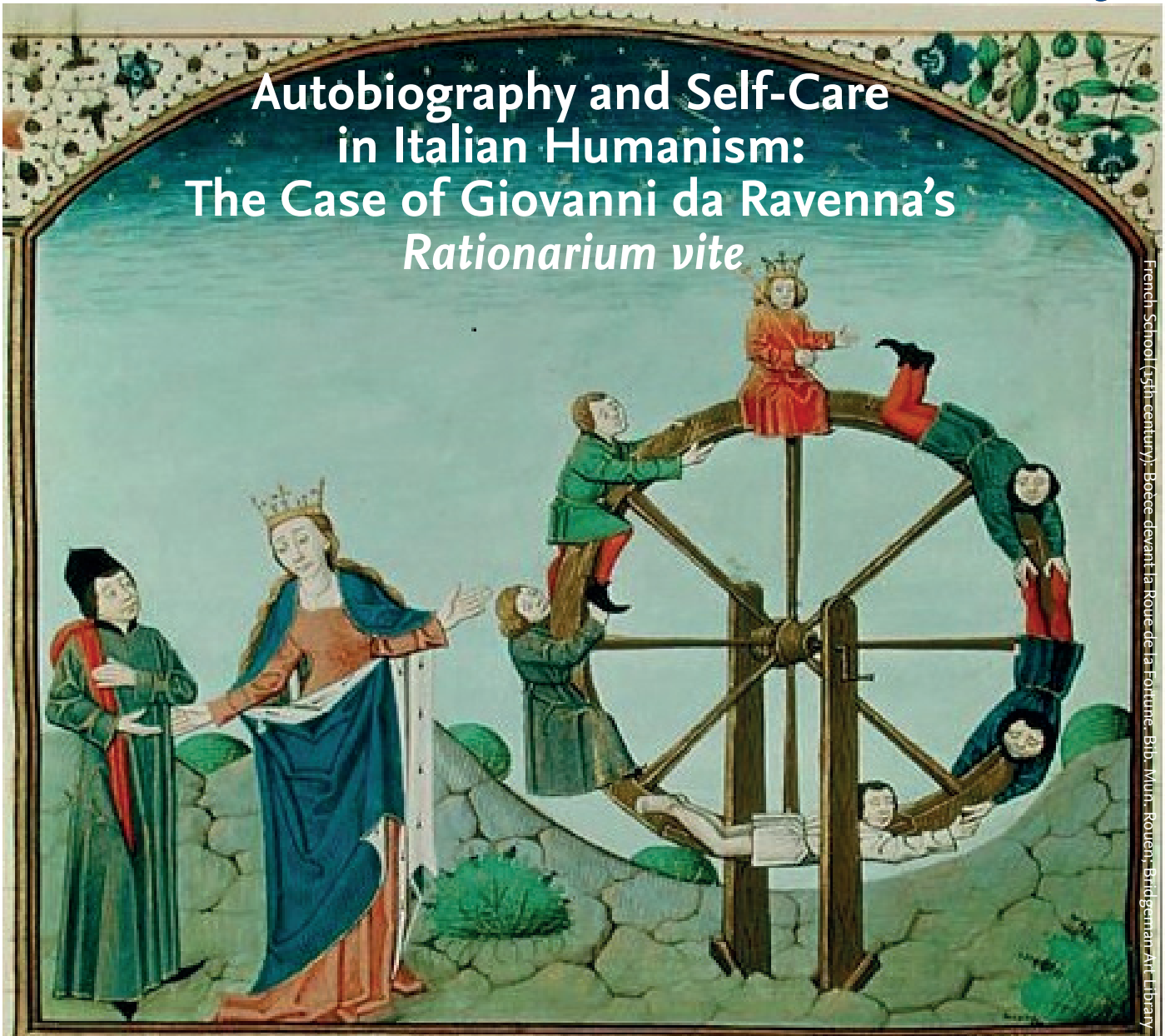


# Autobiography and Self-Care in Italian Humanism: The Case of Giovanni da Ravenna's *Rationarium vite*



French School (15th century): Boece devant la Roue de la Fortune. Bib. Mun. Rouen, Bridgeman Art Library

**Gur Zak**

(The Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Fellow at EXC 2020)

Introduction and Moderation: Bernhard Huss

Wednesday, October 28 - 06:15 PM

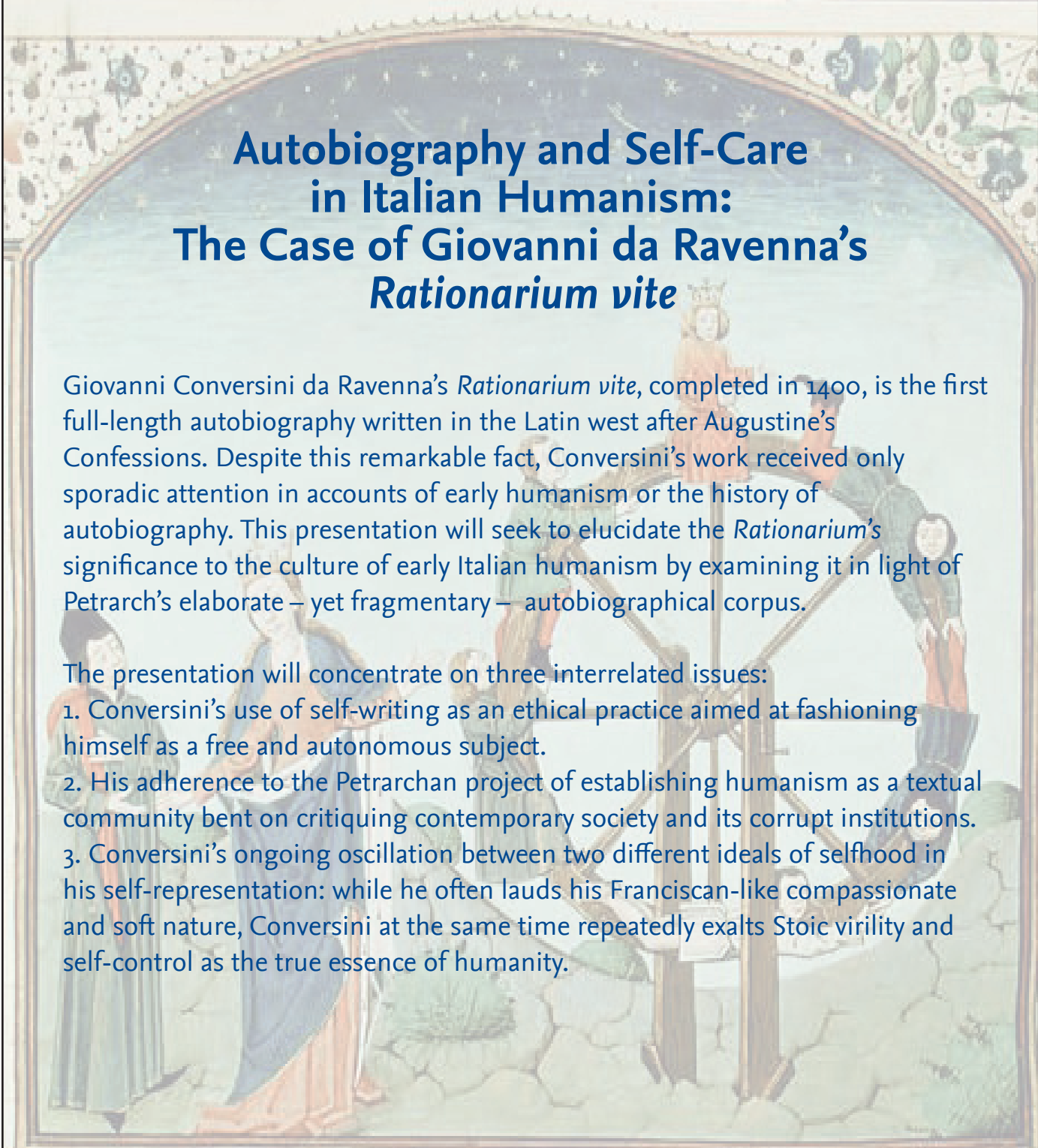
The event will be transmitted via WebEx-Event.  
Please register by email ([bernhard.huss@fu-berlin.de](mailto:bernhard.huss@fu-berlin.de)) until  
Monday, October 26. You will receive all access details on the  
day before the event.



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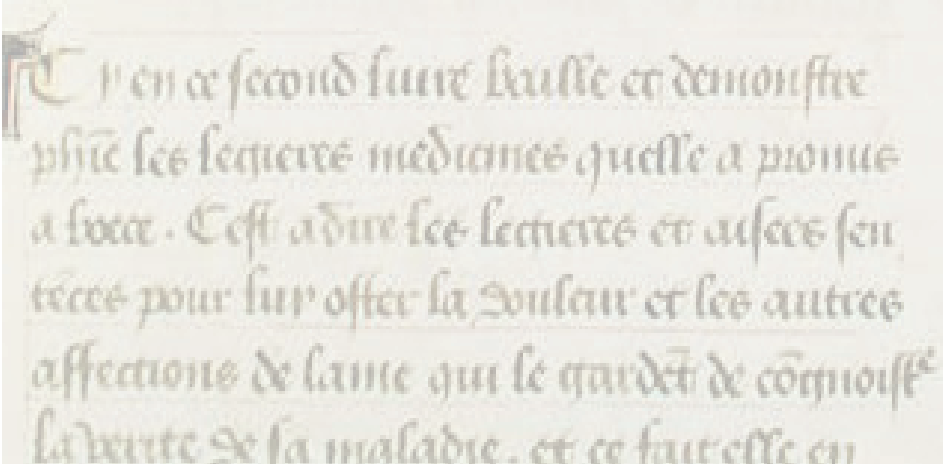


## Autobiography and Self-Care in Italian Humanism: The Case of Giovanni da Ravenna's *Rationarium vite*

Giovanni Conversini da Ravenna's *Rationarium vite*, completed in 1400, is the first full-length autobiography written in the Latin west after Augustine's Confessions. Despite this remarkable fact, Conversini's work received only sporadic attention in accounts of early humanism or the history of autobiography. This presentation will seek to elucidate the *Rationarium's* significance to the culture of early Italian humanism by examining it in light of Petrarch's elaborate – yet fragmentary – autobiographical corpus.

The presentation will concentrate on three interrelated issues:

1. Conversini's use of self-writing as an ethical practice aimed at fashioning himself as a free and autonomous subject.
2. His adherence to the Petrarchan project of establishing humanism as a textual community bent on critiquing contemporary society and its corrupt institutions.
3. Conversini's ongoing oscillation between two different ideals of selfhood in his self-representation: while he often lauds his Franciscan-like compassionate and soft nature, Conversini at the same time repeatedly exalts Stoic virility and self-control as the true essence of humanity.



En ce second livre l'auille et demonstre  
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