



# GASTVORTRÄGE ZUM DFG-PROJEKT

IKONOGRAPHIE AUF WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN  
INSTRUMENTEN DER FRÜHEN NEUZEIT

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(Rom)

## **The Microscopes of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek: Unremarkable Objects?**

Antoni van Leeuwenhoek made more than 400 copies of his single-lens microscope during his lifetime. There is very little known about how he made and used his small instruments. The objects (in contrast to the lenses) themselves have gained the least interest of all in the scholarship, often described as mere "lens-holders".

On the basis of recent research with one of Leeuwenhoek's original microscopes and some of the specimens he prepared more than 300 years ago, this paper will shed new light on Leeuwenhoek's working methods and the ways in which he might have used his instruments.

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