Contract law is one of the most important branches of law. It affects everyone on the daily basis. The knowledge of its history provides a better understanding of both the past centuries and present day legal solutions.

One of the most significant moments in the history of law in Western Europe was the so called early modern time. From the end of the 15th century onward there began a turn in legal thinking which partly resulted from the revival of the scholastic method of science. Scholars of that time were often moral theologians as well as civil lawyers and canon lawyers.

One of them was Paolo Comitoli, an Italian Jesuit, who died in 1626. He was a theologian who wrote a lot on contract law. The aim of the research project is to reconstruct and explain his contract doctrine. The investigation will involve his scientific biography, his originality in legal thinking as well as dependency on previous authors and his influence on later lawyers. This will lead to the general description of his contract doctrine which will enable to place him in the context of his time among other scholars.

What is more, his works will serve as an example of the relation between local level of legal reflexion and the international range of the doctrines of the most popular authors. The scope of limitations which local authors had to deal with remains unknown and studies on Comitoli will enable to find an answer to that question.

Since he is not one of the most famous lawyers of that time, as were Domingo de Soto, Luís de Molina, Leonardus Lessius, there is no literature on his contract doctrine. That is why the project may introduce something new to the state of art. Today the early modern law is getting more attention than before and that is an additional argument in favour of that research.

The historical method will be used to examine the sources. It consists in collecting, reading and translating sources from Latin. After that they may be interpreted and on that basis general conclusions may be drawn.