

# **AGENDA FOR THE 18<sup>th</sup> SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE SPANISH EARLY MODERN HISTORY FOUNDATION**

## **Ferrol, June 11-13, 2025**

### **Opening conference**

Femininity and Masculinity in Anglo-Spanish relations c. 1500-1625

Tracey A. Sowerby

(Oxford University)

## **SECTION A. WOMEN IN THE EARLY MODERN AGE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD**

The aim of this section is to offer a broad and renewed look at the history of gender, bridging already consolidated knowledge and innovative approaches, different readings of the documentary sources and socially inclusive perspectives. In doing so, the contributions can address theoretical, methodological, and terminological debates, as well as the most recent proposals, and assess their possible adaptation or application to the Early Modern Age. Agency, empowerment, sorority, etc., are categories and notions which are rooted in changes in the approaches which can be seen in the most recent historiography. We will welcome contributions on the Monarchy's American and Asian territories.

### **1. Women: empowered and subjugated**

Women and pregnancies: from “empowerment” to disgrace. The multiple realities of pregnancy

Margarita Torremocha Hernández

(Valladolid University)

This section will first address power in the broadest sense of the term, including not only political power, but also all other definitions of this word and all the ways in which women used, assumed, or felt that power—both the power which allowed them to hold sway over other

people, land, or property, and the power that ruled over them (women in the face of political, judicial or administrative power, among others). Therefore, this encompasses political (queens and vice-queens, governours, noblewomen, abesses), judicial (the exercise of seigneurial jurisdiction), and administrative power (ownership of titles). It is important to include those women who used indirect power, as wives and daughters of those who held the titles, or as widows of powerful men. The second topic is initiative—the ability to act in these spheres and in the economy; the involvement in the administration of private and public finance, the establishment of or inclusion in trading companies, credit and loan operations, etc. This includes a study of the institutions and spaces where women were able to exercise their powers and launch their initiatives, as well as the study of the legislation, regulations, and opinion on the subject of women's capacities in said areas.

## **2. Women in families and beyond**

Family and marriage: spaces of harmony and conflict. Domesticity, conjugality and motherhood

Gloria Ángeles Franco Rubio

(Complutense University of Madrid)

Classical family history studies are the base for the incorporation of new perspectives on families and household groups. Documentary sources—in particular, nominative censuses and land registries—have allowed us to measure and classify the wide range of family structures, urban and rural, and we still have to insist on this aspect (by levels of wealth, by occupation, etc.). From the point of view of women, and from a feminist perspective, it would be necessary to address different lines of research: 1. The (often decisive) intervention of women in the management of the family as a demographic, economic, and social unit, taking into account their actual ability and legal limitations to do so depending on their marital status (single, married, having an estranged husband, widowed, with or without children); 2. Female domesticity and home life; 3. The position of women within the family: daughters, wives, and mothers in the face of marital and parental power; 4. Coexistence in the family environment: marital, parent-child, and fraternal relations, and relations with added members of the household. Between harmony and conflict and its judicial and extrajudicial resolution; 5. Motherhood and the role of mothers in the education and learning of their children in the first years of their lives; 6. The life of women and their expectations in rural and urban societies; 7.

Women and caregiving tasks; 8. The marginalization of women due to transgressions, violence exerted by and against them from all areas, poverty and abandonment, or due to their physical or psychological impairments.

### **3. Learning, teaching, reading, writing: culture from the perspective of gender**

Writing for Women: Moral Norms and Editorial Strategies

Mónica Bolufer Peruga

(Valencia University)

In current historiography there is an imbalance in favour of women of the elite or from sectors which have easier access to written culture. This panel aims to integrate all women, be they literate or illiterate, by highlighting studies on the levels of access to reading and writing, social and territorial differences, and differences between the countryside and the cities, language diversity and its effects, etc. This includes the school system and its financing; religious and civil schools, their foundation and financing; intrafamilial training; learning tools (guidance books, handbooks for girls, primers, etc.); secular female teachers of all kinds (governesses, nurses) and religious teachers and their qualification, instruction, and ideas. Laws, rules and public and private means for the education of women in the Early Modern Age and their actual enforcement. Women in book-related occupations (printers, booksellers, resellers, binders) in the press and in the production and circulation of Cordel literature. Institutional libraries (convents, schools), the use of shared libraries by females (family- or spouse-owned) and book-owning women. Reading and readers in their daily spaces; their social differences. Female authors: identity and social standing, acceptance and rejection, ideological control and limitations, thematic genres, publication possibilities and the dissemination of the production. Participation in cultural mediation forms (translation, travel, correspondence). Women in associations, lounges, coteries, academies. Patronage and its role in the establishment of schools, and in the arts, humanities, and science.

### **4. The religious dimension**

Of coercion, vocations and consent. Women in front of the cloister and the religious profession in the Early Modern Age

Ángela Atienza López

(La Rioja University)

This panel intends to address the wide range of issues that can be included under the notion of the female religious world. It encompasses contributions on women who worked in different religious orders and the wider and more diverse universe of blessed women and/or the lay religious, and it also includes an examination of the multiple facets and expressions of the relation between lay women and religion and the consideration of religious practice from the perspective of gender. There are many potential topics and areas for analysis that can be covered in our contributions; including, without limitation, the following selection: the study of female religious production and writing, their cultural and theological contributions, and the study of readings and female readers of religious works and materials. Moreover, imagery and iconography, artistic and musical creation. The wide world of female sanctity in its various expressions and manifestations, canonical and less orthodox, women and devotions, women in the face of the Inquisition and religious power, the topics of heresy, sin, and transgression, magic, and witchcraft. We also propose a look at the wide and varied world of the relations of religious women, whether professed or not, the relations between them and to individuals of all social strata. The institutional organisation: monasteries and female convents, as well as *beaterios*: their foundation, organisation, management, and administration. The internal life of monasticism: the daily life, the material culture, the economic life, regulations and the (non-) compliance therewith, the extraordinary and the anomalous, coexistence, solidarity, and conflicts. Of interest are also contributions around their projection and influence, religious or secular, and their connections to secular life. Similarly, the control over the female religious world exerted by church and civil authorities, tensions, resistance, and negotiations. Religious associationism and the intervention and participation of women: guilds, sororities, third orders, etc. The areas of charity and solidarity towards women: the exercise of private and institutional charity, pious associations and their role, etc. In any event, we will welcome long-term analysis that studies changes and/or permanence, and also microhistorical methodological options, as well as comparative analyses, interdisciplinary approaches, and theoretical reflections or contributions related to debate topics or new perspectives that could enrich our knowledge and comprehension. This panel is open to all religions which had a presence in the territories of the Spanish monarchy.

## **SECTION B. FOREIGNERS AND EARLY MODERN AGE SPAIN**

Although the spatial scope is the Spanish crown, our approach will not be limited to the presence and activities of foreigners (individuals or communities undertaking spatial mobility) in this territory. Indeed, the approach today can and must be more ambitious because we have at our disposal plenty of historiographic production since the mid-20th century. Over the past few decades, new lines of study have been opened and we are forced to raise new questions, motivated by the reading of some publications and by the use of new sources and cross-disciplinarity.

### **1. The exercise of diplomacy**

The art of negotiation. Ambassadors, residents and other diplomatic agents (16th-17th centuries)

Porfirio Sanz Camañes

(Castilla-La Mancha University)

A unique group of foreigners is made up of those who represent their rulers in the Spanish court and viceversa, i.e., the representatives of the Spanish monarch in the various European courts. Throughout the Early Modern Age, bureaucratic activity consolidated itself gradually and the work of the ambassadors became permanent. In this section, we aim to analyse the figures who played this role, as well their tasks, the instructions they were given, the conflicts they faced, the influence networks they weaved, their enemies, their actions in the management of crises, their role in the decisions of the Spanish court, the changes faced by their fellow countrymen due to peace and trade treaties, commercial retaliation and the documentation it generated, from the instructions carried by the ambassadors to the approval of their credentials or passage permits. Traditional diplomatic history has focused more on the figure of the ambassadors, as representatives for their monarchs, than on that of many other envoys, such as delegates, agents, residents, or *nuncios*, who played a key role in pre-Modern diplomatic relationships. The rising demands of the various states to maintain mercantile relationships became manifest in the strengthening of consulates, along with their consuls and vice-consuls, established in the main seaside towns, for the defence of their countries' traders. Lastly, embassies were considered centres for the irradiation of ideas and conspiracies, with privileges and immunities

where ceremony and precedence played important roles. These spaces of power gave rise to conflicts with civil, military, and religious authorities at all levels of the administration—from local administration to the court itself.

## **2. Foreigners in Spain and the Spanish America**

Foreigners and the crisis of the Old Regime: the end of the corporate model of nations in Spain and Spanish America

Óscar Recio Morales

(Complutense University of Madrid)

The Spanish crown and its overseas territories had a huge pulling effect beyond their borders. The commercial possibilities offered by the American traffic are, without a doubt, the aspect which historiography has paid most attention to with regard to foreigners (their demographic relevance, economic weight, and their transcendence), but along with these businessmen came many others. Chief among them are the soldiers who integrated with the Spanish troops in units which shared their same origin, professionals who found a place to establish themselves as painters, musicians, teachers, printers, engineers, etc., who arrived out of their own initiative or at the request of the Crown. Some did their jobs anonymously, whereas others in the court formed pressure groups protected by foreign queen consorts, due to them sharing the same provenance. Foreign interference was conducted by individuals who pursued their own interests and/or those of others. In this section we should include those who acted outside the law, whether in the service of a foreign power or simply moved by personal interest; in any event, always for economic purposes, such as corsaries, spies and smugglers. There are those who wrote down a testimony of their stay or passage, through correspondence or in the form of travel literature. Spain as seen through the eyes of foreigners, what is worthy of praise and criticism, stereotypes, and their evolution. Even though they are not individuals, foreign materials and paper should not be overlooked, especially because these are indispensable for areas of enormous strategic importance, such as the shipbuilding industry.

## **3. Subjects of the Spanish Monarchy throughout the world**

Subjects outside their homeland in the time of Hispanophilia: agents of the King of Spain or opportunistic political actors?

José Javier Ruiz Ibáñez

(Murcia University)

In this section, we aim to give voice to those subjects of the crown who led part of their careers or lives as foreigners, whether in the short or in the long term. This includes those who did unskilled labour and farmers, as well as those who served other monarchs and held important jobs, to the point of their names being part of their adoptive countries' history. Between these two extremes are the youths who studied in European schools and militaries, and those who journeyed Europe and the world as travellers, explorers, scientists, and whose knowledge and learning was occasionally passed down to the public at large through publications, teaching in classrooms or the exercise of administrative duties at their return. The *infantas* are a unique collective who left the court to destinations unknown on a one-way trip to get married. Special foreigners, forced to adapt; we can look into the problems they had to face, analyse their contact with their families, with Spanish ambassadores, their role in the politics of their host courts. Evidently, we should also include those who left their homeland involuntarily due to their political position or creed and were either expelled or opted for exile.

#### **4. Foreign influence: attraction, penetration, prohibition**

The religion of foreigners in the processes of integration in the Spanish monarchy during the 18th century: Spain and America

David González Cruz

(Huelva University)

Culture as an instrument of diplomacy. The perception of the foreigner. Philias and phobias. The presence of foreign artists and their effect on artistic currents. Opinions and attitudes of the Spanish society, the thinking of the *arbitristas* and reformists, prevention against "all things foreign". Foreign cultural creation and its presence through literary translation, theatrical musical performance, in libraries, collections of art, fashion, objects for consumption and luxury goods. Civil and church control, persecution or condemnation of foreign cultural productions. The importation and presence of foreign books in libraries. The actions of foreign booksellers and printers. Professional qualification through foreign artisans. The relevance of foreign clergy in Spain: schools and institutions of nations, Jesuits, Franciscans, etc. The movement of regular and secular clergy between Spain, the Holy See, and Italy. Foreigners and religion as an integration factor.

**Closing conference**

Genoese for conversos? Spain's modernity and American opening at the time of the Discoveries

Béatrice Perez

(Sorbonne University)