

Scientific Conference

With a long tradition, debates on living standards have experienced a notable resurgence in recent decades thanks to contributions that have significantly expanded theoretical and methodological approaches to this fascinating topic. Thus, research has definitively shifted towards the quantitative exploration of price and wage trends to estimate the purchasing power of the population.

Medievalists and modernists have incorporated these approaches, originally applied to industrial societies, into their work. Combined with traditional methods of study, they were to make a significant contribution to a period characterised by increased production and circulation of consumer goods. In this way, historiography has highlighted the sustained growth in living standards in Western Europe since the early stages of the late medieval crisis, a process often linked to the growth of real wages. However, the growing disparity of this phenomenon has also become apparent since the so-called “price revolution”, when a differentiation in the broad trends of prices and wages took place, constituting one of the decisive aspects of what is known as the “small divergence”.

For this reason, the Doctoral School will address the latest research on living standards, with a special focus on training doctoral students and young doctors in theoretical and methodological aspects. Presentations and papers will be the essential mechanism for understanding living standards and the socio-economic complexities of the medieval population, thus offering a more complete view of how these aspects were intrinsically linked to everyday life and social structures.

DIRECTOR

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INFORMATION

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IV Doctoral School in Economic
History of the Middle Ages

THE ECONOMY OF DAILY LIFE

Analysing Living Standards
in Medieval Europe

Valencia

30 June - 2 July 2025

SALA DE JUNTES

FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA



Departament d'Història Medieval i
Ciències i Tècniques Historiogràfiques Facultat de Geografia i Història



Monday, 30 June

9:00-9:30. Inauguration by Antoni Furió, director, and Lledó Ruiz, Laura Miquel, and Federico Gálvez, coordinators

9:30-10:30. Keynote lecture: *Growth, Specialisation, and Inequality in the Western Mediterranean before the Black Death*.
Lluís To (Universitat de Girona)

10:30-11:00. Break

Session 1: Material Culture and Living Standards
Moderator: Esther Tello (IMF-CSIC)

11:00-11:30. *Animal Husbandry and Domestic Economy in Castilian Jewish Communities (13th-14th Centuries)*.
Zooarchaeological Insights and Challenges.
Ana Medina (Universidad de Granada)

11:30-12:00. *“Villages Désertés” and Living Standards: A New Research Perspective*.
Devid Savegnano (Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata)

12:00-12:30. *Eating Across the Mediterranean: Food Practices and Identity in the Datini Company (1389-1411)*.
Ilaria Mengoni (Università di Trento)

12:30-13:30. Discussion

Session 2: Living Standards, As a Family
Moderator: Lledó Ruiz (Universitat Jaume I)

16:00-16:30. *Living Standards and Religious Goods Consumption in 15th-Century Valencian Households*.
Paula Madrid (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

16:30-17:00. *Measuring Economic Levels with Marriage Contracts: Dowry as an Indicator (Valencia, 1382-1500)*.
Jaime Tortosa (Universitat de València)

17:00-17:30. *How Much Does It Cost to Die? Death Registers from Late Medieval Catalonia as an Economic Source. Possibilities, Limitations, and Proposals*.
Alberto Barber (Universitat de Lleida)

17:30-18:30. Discussion

Tuesday, 1 July

9:30-10:30. Keynote lecture: *Welfare Ratios: When They Came From, Where Can They Go?*.
Robert C. Allen (New York University, Abu Dhabi)

10:30-11:00. Break

Session 3: Living Standards at the Rural World
Moderator: Luis Almenar
(Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

11:00-11:30. *Consumption and Living Standards in Mallorca (16th Century)*.
Andreu Seguí (Universitat de les Illes Balears)

11:30-12:00. *Rural Annual Wages and the “Little Divergence”: New Approaches and Hypothesis*.
José Joaquín García (Universidad de Almería)

12:00-12:30. *In Defense of Money Changers. A Monetary Dilemma? The Bonini’s Case*.
Giovanni Patriarca (Universität Bayreuth)

12:30-13:30. Discussion

Session 4: Earning a Life in the Preindustrial City
Moderator: Laura Miquel
(Universitat de València)

16:00-16:30. *Work and Wellbeing. Living Standards in Medieval Valencia (1300-1460)*.
Miquel Faus (Universitat de València)

16:30-17:00. *How to Determine Living Standards in Rouen at the End of the Middle Ages? Sources, Method and Research Prospects*.
Anne Kucab (Sorbonne Université)

17:00-17:30. *The Bread of Toledo: Prices, Political Economy, and Living Standards, 1535-1800*.
David González (Universitat de València)

17:30-18:30. Discussion

Wednesday, 2 July

9:30-10:30. Keynote lecture: *From Great Famine to Golden Age: Wages, Prices, and the Economic Rise of Holland, 1280-1850*.
Alexandra de Pleijt (University of Bristol)

10:30-11:00. Break

Session 5: The Other Living Standards
Moderator: Federico Gálvez
(Universidad de Málaga)

11:00-11:30. *Women in the Unskilled Workforce of the “Sotsobreria de Murs i Valls” of Valencia: An Analysis of Wages, Workforce Size, and Purchasing Power (1380-1408)*.
Jordi Quiles (Universitat de València)

11:30-12:00. *Wealthy Among the Poor: The Diversity of Living Standards in the Hospitals of Barcelona (14th-16th Centuries)*.
Pol Bridgewater (Universitat de Barcelona)

12:00-12:30. *Living, Working, Ruling: The Artisan Community in Premodern Vienna*.
Selina Thomalla (Universität Wien)

12:30-13:30. Discussion

16:00-18:00. Roundtable

Pere Benito (Universitat de Lleida)
David Carvajal (Universidad de Valladolid)
José Ramón Díaz de Durana (UPV/EHU)
Adela Fábregas (Universidad de Granada)
Juan Vicente García Marsilla (Universitat de València)
Manuel González Mariscal (Universidad de Sevilla)
Enric Guinot (Universitat de València)
Pere Verdés (IMF-CSIC)
Pau Viciano (Universitat de València)

18:00-18:30. Closing remarks