

Convivencia: Representations, Knowledge and Identities (Madrid, 27-30 May 09)

"Convivencia: Representations, Knowledge and Identities, 500 - 1600 a.d."

Madrid, 27 - 30 May 2009

Organized by

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V. (MPG)

Convivencia is traditionally the term for designing the cooperative and conflictual coexistence of Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities in the medieval Iberian Peninsula. The conference will study this phenomenon with regard to the interacting dimensions of representations, knowledge and identities. Representation stands for all forms of cultural production in art, religion, literature, science and law. Knowledge includes not only science but also forms of practical, social as well as other forms of knowledge. The concept of identity refers to the individual and collective imaging of the self and the other.

The aim of the conference is to address a formative period of Europe with its cultural and religious heterogeneity from a multidisciplinary perspective. The encounters and exchanges between Jewish, Christian and Islamic communities and elites constitute a historical laboratory of great significance for understanding interaction and transformation processes of cultures in the millennium between the decline of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the early modern period. Aspects of these processes have been studied by single disciplines in an isolated manner. The challenge of the conference is to overcome such division and focus instead on overarching questions which create an intense dialogue and collaboration between the disciplines themselves.

Wednesday, 27 May

This session will be held in the CSIC Main Building. Serrano 117 - 28006 Madrid.

12.00 - 13.00 Press conference

16.00 - 17.00 Arrival and inscription

17.00 - 18.00 Opening ceremony

18.00 - 19.30 Public event

Abdellah Hammoudi (Princeton University)

Public lecture Giving and Receiving Yeast: How to Keep Differing Identities Together

David Nirenberg (The University of Chicago)

Public lecture Convivencia y conflicto en Iberia

19.30 - 20.30 Vino Español

The following sessions will be held at the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales (CSIC). All other sessions will be held at Albasanz 26-28 – 28037 Madrid.

Thursday, 28 May

Morning: 9.15 - 13.30

Session: The Appropriation of the Past Forms of Art and Science in New Contexts

Chair: Eduardo Manzano (CSIC)

9.15 - 9.30 Opening remarks

9.30 - 10.00 Angelika Neuwirth (Freie Universität Berlin)

The Qur'an - A Text of Late Antiquity

10.00 - 10.30 Andreina Contessa (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

The Visualization of the Heavens in Medieval Manuscripts: From Ancient Astronomical Imagery to Christian Scientific Illustration.

10.30 - 11.00 Regula Forster (Freie Universität Berlin)

Transmission of Knowledge through Literature: The Literary Frames of the Pseudo - Aristotelian SIRR al-Asrar and Kitab al-Tuffaha

Break: 11.00 - 11.30

Chair: Karl Rudolf (Österreichisches Historisches Institut, Madrid)

11.30 - 12.00 Tom Nickson (Courtauld Institute London)

Gates of Paradise. Getting into Medieval Spain

12.00 - 12.30 Cynthia Robinson (Cornell University)

Purposeful Polyvalence: Christ, the Virgin, Polemic and Devotions in a Multi-Confessional Castile (15th c.)

12.30 - 13.00 Beatrice Gruendler (Yale University)

Books, Notes, and Words: Communicative Choices on the Eve of Arabic-Islamic Book Culture (3rd Century AH/9th Century CE)

13.00 - 13.30 Felipe Pereda (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Sacred Images and Conversions in Early Modern Spain

General discussion

13.30 - 15.00 Internal lunch break

Afternoon: 15.00 - 19.00

Session: Representation of Contact and Conflict in Texts and Images

Chair: Nikolas Jaspert (Bochum University)

15.00 - 15.30 Maria Rosa Menocal (Yale University)

On Convivencia

15.30 - 16.00 Esperanza Alfonso (CSIC Madrid)

The Forgotten Sheaf: Exegesis and Poetry from Granada to Tlemcen

16.00 - 16.30 José Martínez Gázquez (Universidad Autònoma Barcelona)

The Representation of Islam in Medieval Texts of the "Corpus Islamolatinum"

Break: 16.30 - 17.00

17.00 - 17.30 Rosa María Rodríguez Porto (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)

Anatopic Visions, Displaced Conflicts. Translations of Romans Antiques in Medieval Castile

17.30 - 18.00 Claudia Rückert (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Islamophobic Tendencies in the Romanesque Sculpture of Northern Spain and France?

18.00 - 18.30 Ryan Szpiech (University of Michigan)

Hermeneutical Muslims? Islam as Witness in Christian anti-Jewish Polemic

18.30 - 19.00 Avinoam Shalem (LMU München)

Face to Face: Cordoba and Baghdad

General discussion

Friday 29 May

Session: Transmission and Transformation of Institutional and Legal Models

Chair: Reinhard Zimmermann (Max-Planck-Institut für Ausländisches und Internationales Privatrecht)

Morning: 9.00 - 13.30

9.00 - 9.30 Benjamin Jokisch (Universität Freiburg)

The Intertwinedness of Islamic and Roman Law

9.30 - 10.00 David Sánchez Cano (Madrid)

Dancing for the Corpus. Muslim and Jewish Participation in Courtly and Religious Festivals

10.00 - 10.30 Hussein Fancy Anwar (University of Michigan)

The Mercenary Mediterranean, or The Microecology of Law

10.30 - 11.00 Sonja Brentjes (Universidad de Sevilla)

The Shift from Faith-Neutral to Faith-Based Scholarly Communities in Islamic Societies

Break: 11.00 - 11.30

Chair: Klaus Herbers (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)

11.30 - 12.00 Ana Echevarría (UNED, Madrid)

Representation and Knowledge of Islam among Castilian Muslims: Burials and Rites

12.00 - 12.30 Stefania Pastore (Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa)

From Popular to Intellectual Averroism: the "Marrano" Diego Hurtado de Mendoza

12.30 - 13.00 Sabine Schmidtke (Freie Universität Berlin)

David b. Joshua Maimonides' (fl. ca. 1335 - 1410) Commentary on Najm al-Din al-Katibi's (d. 657/1276) al-Risala al-Shamsiyya

13.00 - 13.30 Günther Schlee (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology)

Ethnic and Religious Differences in the Study of Conflict and Social Integration: Exploration of a Comparative Perspective with a Focus on Convivencia Elsewhere and the other Way Round

General discussion

13.30 - 15.00 Internal lunch break

Afternoon 15.00 - 17.30

Session: Spaces of Convivencia (Learning Places, Sacred and Profane Spaces, etc.)

Chair: Mariano Gómez Aranda (CSIC)

15.00 - 15.30 Eleazar Gutwirth (Tel Aviv University)

Belatedness, History and Authorship: Medieval Spain

15.30 - 16.00 Mercè Comes, Mónica Herrera (University of Barcelona)

Nautical Cartography as a Means of Intercultural Exchange: Some Mediterranean Chartmakers as Intermediaries between East and West

16.00 - 16.30 Henrik Karge (TU Dresden)

Image and Space in Christian Andalusia. Ecclesiastical Buildings and Holy Images in the Neighbourhood of Islam

16.30 - 17.00 Marina Rustow (Emory University)

Language, Power, and Cultural Transmission: Sicilian Jews and the Polyglot Phenomenon

17.00 - 17.30 Matthias Tischler (Dresden University)

Spaces of 'Convivencia' or Spaces of 'Polemics'? Tracking Manuscripts of Christian Anti-Muslim Traditions in the Intellectual Landscape of the Iberian Peninsula, 9th to 13th Centuries

18.30 - 20.00 Guided visit to the Prado Museum

20.30 - 22.30 Dinner

Saturday 30 May

General discussion

Chair: Maribel Fierro (CSIC Madrid)

11:30 - 12:00 Richard Bulliet (Columbia University New York)

Some Reflections on the Conference

12.00 - 13.00 Round table with session chairs (Maribel Fierro, Mariano Gomez Aranda, Klaus Herbers, Nikolas Jaspert, Eduardo Manzano, Karl Rudolf, and Reinhard Zimmermann)

13.00 - 14.00 Concluding remarks

Rivka Feldhay (Tel Aviv University)

Mercedes García Arenal (CSIC Madrid)

Jürgen Renn (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Berlin)

Gerhard Wolf (Max Planck Institute Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence)

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Reference:

CONF: Convivencia: Representations, Knowledge and Identities (Madrid, 27-30 May 09). In: ArtHist.net, May 13, 2009 (accessed Jun 13, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/31547>>.