Global Ideals in the Early Modern Iberian Worlds (Bologna, 19-20 Jun 25)

University of Bologna, Department of the Arts, Palazzo Marescotti, via Barberia 4, Jun 19–20, 2025

Maria Vittoria Spissu

Symposium: Empire of Role Models? Championing and Challenging Global Ideals in the Early Modern Iberian Worlds.

This symposium addresses the issue of global connections by focusing on the circulations of world views, distributed agency, the transformation of models, transcultural/transformative objects, nomadic ideals, utopian objects promising salvation, objects embodying conflicts or aspiring to heal division, weaponized objects, and images visualizing redemption, negotiation or idealized pacification.

It focuses on the globalizing networks that strove toward universal unity and the synergy generated by the imperial colonial system of sovereignty, hegemony, hierarchy, and local authorities. It explores role models, heroes, moralizing values, and normative virtues within Global Catholicism while embracing the rhizomatic/polyphonic reality that resisted controlling and unifying ambitions.

The symposium examines constellations of images and devotional cults, connected histories, the mobilization of knowledge and ideologies, the fabrication of ideas and narratives, and the imposition or contestation of ideals and social emotions within the Habsburg Empire in Europe, the Iberian Americas, Africa, and Asia during the Global Renaissance and the Global Baroque.

It considers ideas and objects representative of multiple places and communities, but it also aims to give a voice to images and stories that endeavored to escape such a totalizing perspective. This symposium investigates works and actions embedded within collective ideals while delving into objects and encounters/clashes that reveal distance and closeness, sharing and erasure, possession and resistance.

Organized by Maria Vittoria Spissu (DAR, UNIBO)
Sponsored by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COMCON Project and DAMSLab UNIBO
With the support of the Center for Renaissance Studies – The Newberry Library, Chicago and the Center for Iberian Historical Studies – Saint Louis University

Free and open to the public

Programme:

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, SALONE MARESCOTTI

Welcome & Opening Address
10:40-11:00 Maria Vittoria Spissu, Department of the Arts, University of Bologna
Marian Guerilla, Mines of Hearts, Giant Rhizomes, and Rivers of Idealized Pacification: 'A Brave New World'

Session 1: Pioneering ~ Reframing ~ Envisioning
Chair: Lia Markey, Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, Chicago

11:00-11:20 Alessandra Russo, Columbia University, New York
Ars in a Novus Orbis: Inceptions of a Newly Found Term

11:20-11:40 Shannah Rose, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University | American Academy in Rome
Lorenzo Pignoria and the Remediation of Mexican Deities in Early Modern Rome

11:40-12:00 Vanessa A. Portugal, Trinity College Dublin
A Cosmological Model from the New World. Reflections from Saint Augustin in the Tierra Caliente of Michoacán

12:00-12:20 Q&A

Session 2: Performing ~ Unfolding ~ Fabricating
Chair: Alessandra Russo, Columbia University, New York

14:20-14:40 Marta Albalá Pelegrín, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
Empire on Display: Staging Iberian Monarchs in Papal Rome

14:40-15:00 Lia Markey, Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, Chicago
Urbano Monte's World Map in Spanish Milan: Materiality, Circularity, and Imagery

15:00-15:20 José Joaquín Araneda Riquelme, Università Roma Tre
Colonial Objects on Board! Augustinian Agents and Political Communication from the Andes to Rome and Madrid (1640-1700)

15:20-15-40 Q&A
15:40-16:00 Break

Session 3: Championing ~ Enlightening ~ Striving
Chair: Christine Göttler, Universität Bern

16:00-16:20 Raphaèle Preisinger, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich
Constructing Missionary Heroism: The Martyrs of Japan in a Transcontinental Perspective

16:20-16:40 Antonin Liatard, Université Paris Nanterre
Spotless Mirror and Jesuit Aesthetic Models between Spanish Netherlands and Latin America

16:40-17:00 Fernando Loffredo, Stony Brook University, New York
Global Eruptions: New Devotions and the Ecologies of Fear across the Spanish Empire

17:00-17:20 Q&A

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, SALONE MARESCOTTI
Session 4: Melting ~ Refounding ~ Transforming
Chair: Raphaèle Preisinger, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich

9:20-9:40 Christine Göttler, Universität Bern
Sites of Conversion: Rubens's Studio, the Antwerp Mint, and the Spanish Empire

9:40-10:00 Katherine Mills, Harvard University | Kunsthistorische Institut in Florenz
How to Recover from Disaster: Local Stonemasons Rebuild Cuzco in the Aftermath of the 1650 Earthquake

10:00-10:20 Francisco Montes González, Universidad de Sevilla
Tempesta en México: Una interpretación iconológica de los enconchados de la Conquista

10:20-10:40 Q&A
10:40-11:00 Break

Session 5: Challenging ~ Uprooting ~ Regenerating
Chair: Marta Albalá Pelegrín, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

11:00-11:20 Nicolás Kwiatkowski, Universidad de San Martín – CONICET | Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Elephants, Drugs, Books and the Inquisition. Garcia de Orta, from the Iberian Peninsula to Goa

11:20-11:40 Fabien Montcher, Center for Iberian Historical Studies, Saint Louis University
El Arte Nuevo of Natural History: Revealing the Power of 'Local Nature'

11:40-12:00 Javier Patiño Loira, University of California, Los Angeles | I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies
A World Without Models: Truffles' Impossible Families in Early Modern Italy

12:00-12:20 Q&A

Closing remarks
12:20-12:40 Maria Vittoria Spissu, DAR – UNIBO

Reference:
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