

International Conference

Mary's Grandsons: Marian devotion, colonial politics and native strategies against imperial pressure



12-13 May 2026, Madrid, Spain

Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (CCHS-CSIC)

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Tuesday, May 12th:

9:00 – Reception.

9:30 – Introductory Words

9:40-10:40 Mary as interconfessional agent: From the Mediterranean to the Americas.

Chair: Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam)

9:40-10:10 Katarzyna K. Starczewska (CCHS-CSIC) - “Praise be to Mary Our Lady”: Marian Figures in the Polemical Writings of Moriscos and Polish-Lithuanian Tatars

10:10- 10:40 Davide Scotto (University of Pavia) - Marian Substitutions: Peter Martyr of Anghiera’s Christian Rhetoric Against Judaism and Idolatry.

10:40 – 11:40 Mary’s Grandsons: Marian imagery, Imperial Identity, and Native Subjecthood across the Atlantic. Chair: Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam)

9:30-10:00 Payton Philips Quintanilla (University of Notre Dame) – Intercession: The Virgin Mary in Transatlantic Politics.

10:00-10:30 Amanda Valdés Sánchez (CCHS-CSIC) - “Marian inventions against Imperial Pressure: Native forgeries, Imperial identity, Interclass-Struggle and Native Elite Strategies across the Spanish Atlantic.”

Coffee Break: 11:40 – 12:00

12:00-14:00 Mary and Morisco Identities: Personal Belief, Public Image, and Imperial Rhetoric.

Chair: Felipe Pereda (Harvard University)

12:00-12:30 Amalia García Pedraza (Universidad de Granada) -"De la predicación a la práctica devocional: las fuentes notariales y el culto mariano entre los moriscos granadinos”.

12:30-13:00 Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam) – “The role of Mary in the discursive strategies in the Lead Books and Parchment of the Sacromonte (Granada).”

13:00- 13:30 María Gema Rayo Muñoz (CCHS-CSIC)- Retóricas del ‘buen cristiano’: los moriscos del reino de Granada ante la monarquía (1492-1550)

13:30- 14:00 Catherine V Infante (Amherst College) – “Marian Devotion in the Self-Fashioning of Gaspar de Benimerín”

Lunch Break: 14:00 – 15:30

15:30 - 18:00 “Indigenous Miracles”: Colonial theology, Marian Miracle Stories, Indigenous Agency, and Christianized Native Identities.

Chair: Fernando Rodríguez Mediano (CCHS-CSIC)

15:30-16:00 Eduardo Fernández Guerrero (The Warburg Institute)- “Intellectual genealogies of Marian mystical discourse: the *Apocalypsis Nova* between the Iberian Peninsula and the Spanish Americas.”

[Coffe Break: 16:00 -16:30]

16:30-17:00 Laura Sabina González Carracedo (CCHS-CSIC) – “The Construction of the Evangelization Imaginary of the Guanches of Tenerife: Fray Alonso de Espinosa, 'el guanche Antón', and the Virgin of Candelaria.”

17:00-17:30 Max Deardorff (University of Florida) - “Muisca Dance, Confraternity Banners, and the Virgin: Politics in an Age of Miracles”

Wednesday, May 13th:

9:30-11:00 Mary’s Protection and Imperial Maternity: Marian Spiritual Motherhood, Ethnic Minorities, and Social Integration in the Spanish Empire

Chair: Payton Philips Quintanilla (University of Notre Dame)

9:30- 10:00 Katerina Levinson (Stanford University) - Marian Motherhood and Female Authority in Lope’s *La Madre de la mejor* and De Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s *The Mother of the Best*

10:00-10:30 Sara Buitrago (Brown University) - ‘Aurora de las Indias’: Marian Peninsular Rhetoric and American Popular Devotion of Santa Rosa

10:30-11:00 Elizabeth Liliann Blakemore (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) – “Under Her Protection: Marian Devotion in Afro-Hispanic Confraternities”

Coffee Break: 11:00- 11:30

11:30 – 13:00 Marian Geographies: Miracle Stories, Land Rights, Territoriality, and Civic Identities from Medieval Iberia to Late Colonial Spanish America.

Chair: Max Deardorff (University of Florida)

11:30-12:00 Adriano Duque (Villanova University) – “Found, Claimed, or Conquered? Religious Topography and Colonialism in the Legend of the Virgen del Rocío”

12:00-12:30 Eduardo Angel Cruz (KU Leuven) – “A Miracle that Claimed the Land: Nahua Testimonies and Territorial Disputes in the Making of the Guadalupe Tradition in Colonial Mexico.”

12:30-13:00 Felipe de Jesús López Contreras (Centro Universitario de los Lagos de la Universidad de Guadalajara) – “La invención de la Virgen: imagen, territorio y desplazamiento indígena en San Juan de los Lagos (1623–1732).”

Lunch Break: 13:00 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:30 Mary on the margins: Marian Devotion and Religious Dissent from Granada to the New World. Chair: Katarzyna K. Starczewska (CCHS-CSIC)

- 14:30-15:00 Denise A. Spellberg, (The University of Texas at Austin)- “*Ave Maria* versus the Evil Eye: Marian Devotion and Islamic Amulets on a Gold Necklace Found in Granada”
- 15:00-15:30 Linda A. Curcio-Nagy (University of Nevada)- “Mary and the Devil: Popular Piety in 17th-Century Mexico”
- 15:30-16:00 David Tavarez (Vassar College) – “María y sus devociones heterodoxas en comunidades zapotecas en la Nueva España, siglos XVII - XVIII”
- 16:00-16:30 Marcelo José Cabarcas Ortega (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)- “Monstrous Devotion: Marian Imagery, Arrochelamiento, and Subaltern Resistance in Colonial Cartagena de Indias”

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break:

17:00-17:30 Mary’s Colonial Afterlives: Hispanic Heritage, New Colonialism, Marian devotion, and Local Identities. Chair: Davide Scotto (University of Pavia)

Carla Tiefenbacher (University of Cologne)- “The Virgin just stood there, forgotten!.Traces of Empire and infrastructures of contemporary Catholic life between Spain and Morocco.”

17:30 - Concluding Remarks - Felipe Pereda Espeso (Harvard University)