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Connections and Entanglements: Trade, Mobility, and Cultural Transfer between the North and Baltic Seas and the Iberian Atlantic in the Early Modern Period

Workshop at the IEG in Mainz
12th – 13th September 2024



Trade and mobility in the Iberian Atlantic have produced a growing body of scholarship. Only recently has the integration of other European regions into the emerging Atlantic world become a prominent topic. At the time when Spain and Portugal founded their Atlantic empires, Europe was divided by political and religious conflicts. However, Iberian ports like Lisbon and Seville attracted merchants from across Europe, including those from rivalling powers and religious others. Spanish and Portuguese merchants, adventurers, diplomats, and soldiers not only advanced into remote areas of America and Asia, but also frequented trading centres, princely courts, and battlefields in central and northern Europe. Against this backdrop, this workshop aims to explore the connections and entanglements between two regions traditionally viewed separately: the North and Baltic Seas and the Iberian Atlantic. It brings together scholars from Spain, Germany, Austria and Scandinavia who are interested in cross-cultural trade, mobility, and perception of self and other in early modern Europe.

Thursday, 12 September 2024

14:30–14:45	Manuel Fernández Chaves (Sevilla / Mainz) / Thomas Weller (Mainz) <i>Introduction</i>
14:45–15:30	Magnus Ressel (Bremen/Frankfurt) <i>Spain, Cuba and the Belgian Slave Trade to Havana in the 1780s.</i> <i>The Global Ventures of Friedrich Romberg (1729-1819) in Brussels</i>
15:30–16:15	Manuel Fernández Chaves (Sevilla/Mainz) <i>The Participation of International Finance in the Slave Trade and Other Trafficks in the Iberian Atlantic</i>
16:15–16:45	Coffee break
16:45–17:30	Jorun Poettering (Hamburg) <i>The Third Diaspora: Black People between the Northern Seas and the Iberian Atlantic</i>

17:30–18:15	Klemens Kaps (Wien) <i>A transcultural merchant nation between Central Europe and the Atlantic: Social integration und business strategies of traders from the Habsburg dominions in 18th-century Cádiz</i>
19:00	Conference Dinner

Friday, 13 September 2024

9:00–9:45	Maria Grove Gordillo (Sevilla) <i>English trading companies in Atlantic Andalusia (16th century)</i>
9:45–10:30	Thomas Weller (Mainz) <i>How to Become a Spaniard: Naturalization and Belonging among Merchants from the Holy Roman Empire in Seventeenth Century Seville</i>
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
11:00–11:45	Eleonora Poggio (Växjö) <i>Flemish, Italian and French Merchant Networks in New Spain, 1620-1645</i>
11:45–12:30	Martin Biersack (Berlin/Granada) <i>Legally Excluded, De Facto Tolerated: Foreigners under Spanish Colonial Rule</i>
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:15	Miguel Royano (Sevilla) <i>Faith and Money: Catalan Brotherhoods and Consulates between the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea (1500-1600)</i>
14:15–15:00	Luis Conde Blázquez (Barcelona) <i>Sebastianist traces in a German Baroque novel: Der spanische Quintana by Eberhard Werner Happel (1686-1687)</i>
15:00–15:30	Concluding Debate