INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONTEMPORARIES

WOMEN POLITICIANS,
WORKERS, AND
SOCIETY MOVERS

History Faculty
Santiago de Compostela
20-21 October 2022
The life of Juana de Vega, Countess of Espoz y Mina (1805-1872), illustrates the presence of women in settings that were traditionally forbidden to women of her time. With her husband, she plots against absolutism, and, as a widow, becomes through her social gatherings and informal contacts an interlocutor of some of the first men of the progressive party, such as Mendizábal and Olózaga. She is a politician behind the scenes—also from her position as royal governess between 1841 and 1843—and makes her influence felt in the worlds of private contacts and epistolary correspondence, the only ones feasible for her gender. An only daughter, she receives an important inheritance of land and income that she judiciously manages at the same time that she participates in investments typical of the century, such as railways and the purchase of bank and company stocks. At her death, she establishes a foundation to create a farming school that demonstrates her interest in improving the country's agricultural activity. Her enormous social sensitivity and concern for the most disadvantaged make her a benchmark in Galician and Spanish civil society, as exemplified by her presidency of the Society of the Ladies of Charity of La Coruña, her post as deputy-protector of Galician charities, and her many educational initiatives, which she was able to combine with an unparalleled memorialist activity—the editing of a biography of her husband Espoz y Mina and autobiographical papers published after his death.

In permanent mourning and with a serious and formal bearing—similar to that of her close friend Concepción Arenal—de Vega was able to open pathways that would later be traveled by other women, while widening the fields of action for a gender constrained to the archetype of “home angel”.

This international conference, marking the 150th anniversary of the death of Juana de Vega, has political, economic, and social perspectives and seeks to improve and disseminate knowledge about women who were contemporaries of de Vega—a diverse group from the 19th century and first third of the 20th century. The conference is organized in three sessions that will each revolve around presentations by two renowned specialists on that session’s theme. It seeks papers that give visibility to women from the period who were decisive in the process, yet unfinished, of normalizing women’s presence in all kinds of social, political, economic, and cultural contexts.
Thursday, October 20

9:30-10.00: Opening.

Session 1: Women and Politics
10:00-10:40: María Cruz Romeo Mateo (Universitat de València): “Politicómanas, beatas y ángeles del hogar en la España liberal”
10:40-11:20: Marta del Moral Vargas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): “En las calles, en las tribunas, en las urnas: las mujeres en la política española (1900-1936)”
11:20-11:45: Discussion
11:45-12:00: Coffee break
12:00-14:00: Papers and Discussion
Moderator: Xosé Ramón Veiga

Session 2: Women and Economics
16:00-16:40: Carmen Sarasúa (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona): “Trabajo de las mujeres en el sector servicios. Las nodrizas de las inclusas en los siglos XVIII y XIX”
16:40-17:20: Cristina Borderías (Universitat de Barcelona): “Ganadores de pan en las ciudades de España en el primer tercio del siglo XX”
17:20-17:45: Discussion
17:45-18:00: Coffee break
18:00-20.00: Papers and Discussion
Moderator: Luisa Muñoz

Friday, October 21

Session 3: Women and Society
9:00-9:40: Ana María Aguado (Universitat de València): “Feminismos y sociabilidad política femenina como escuela de ciudadanía en el primer tercio del siglo XX”
9:40-10:20: Teresa María Ortega López (Universidad de Granada): “Una mirada de género sobre el mundo rural español del siglo XIX y comienzos del XX”
10:20-10:45: Discussion
10:45-11:00: Coffee break
11:00-13:00: Papers and Discussion
Moderator: Margarita Barral

Closing
13:00-13:40 Sharon Roseman (Memorial University, Canadá): “La mirada etnográfica y las mujeres gallegas”
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Organizing Committee
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Rosa María Capel Martínez (UCM)
Gloria Nielfa Cristóbal (UCM)
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Manuela Martini (Université Lyon 2, France)
Dolores Ramos Palomo (Universidad de Málaga)
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Ramón Villares Paz (USC)

Organized by
Cátedra Juana de Vega
Departamento de Historia de la Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

Collaborators
PROYECTO HAR2017-85601-C2-2-P
La estructura de la ocupacion y el ingreso en el largo plazo, redefiniendo la modernizacion economica y los niveles de vida en Galicia, 1750-1975
Paper Submissions

Papers that are framed within gender studies and that fall within the broad time span defined by the life of the honoree, regardless of geographic reference or context (rural/urban), will be welcome. There will be room for works carried out using diverse sources and methodological perspectives (case studies, comparative studies, theoretical approaches, methodological reflections, commentaries on historical sources and their potentials and weaknesses, etc.), with interdisciplinary views being especially appreciated. The intent is to offer different perspectives that promote a better understanding of the dynamics of transformation of gender stereotypes and that make visible women’s agency in different historical contexts.

Paper proposals of 250–300 words, indicating the sessions to which they are addressed, accompanied by brief CVs (200 words) may be sent until April 29, 2022, to: ana.cabana@usc.es. The final program and list of accepted papers will be made public on May 6, 2022. Deadline for papers will be September 30, 2022.

Papers may have different formats: a) lengthy summary of 8–10 pages that may include tables, graphs, etc.; b) complete paper of 15–20 pages accompanied by a brief abstract (150 words); c) poster.

Provisional Calendar

- Launch of conference and call for papers: February 21 to April 29, 2022
- Communication with authors of accepted proposals: May 6, 2022
- Provisional programme: May 30, 2022
- Deadline for papers: September 30, 2022
- Final programme: October 6, 2022
- Conference: October 20–21, 2022