



## International Seminar History of the Inquisitions

### **The Holy Office and Colonial Worlds**

Santiago de Chile  
November 6-8, 2019  
Universidad Finis Terrae



# Call for Papers

## Presentation

The *International Seminar on the History of the Inquisitions* invites researchers to reflect and discuss phenomena inherent to the contemporaneous existence of the tribunals of the Holy Office and European colonial expansion, both of which have shaped modern realities. During the Early Modern period, Iberian monarchies took on unprecedented imperial expansion across the globe. Their establishment within colonial realities required an intense process of transplanting people, institutions, and ideas that would ultimately radically change the face of all societies involved. A fundamental aspect of this enterprise was the creation of new structures of power oriented to controlling, including over great distances, both people and territories. Additionally, religious realities, and the structures inherent in these, were radically affected.

It is within this context, that the existence of inquisitorial tribunals, in both the metropole and colonies, should be analyzed. What could these bodies share in such diverse places beyond Europe? What new processes occurred? How did they articulate centralizing visions as well as dialogues between centers and peripheries? The *Seminar* is particularly interested in interpretations and the questioning of categories common within current historiographical debates, such as hegemony, periphery, religious experience, and transgression. At the same time, it becomes clear the need to study the creation and emergence of new cultural and religious identities in an increasingly globalized world, resulting in the global migration of actors, such as groups of new Christians and inquisitorial personnel.

Based on these considerations, we invite proposals related to the following themes.

## Themes

### 1) Inquisitions and Center-Periphery Relations

Contributions that reflect on the dynamics generated within colonial empires and on the role tribunals of the Holy Office played in the relations between imperial centers (Madrid and Lisbon) and their colonies. It is essential to consider the diverse levels of interaction between center and periphery - for example, the role exercised by the normative center (the *Suprema*, the *Conselho Geral*), as well as the interactions between tribunals and the peripheries they policed and the tensions caused by adaptation. Furthermore, it is necessary to consider how these relations were not just about territorial jurisdictions but also, as colonial implementations, ideological phenomena that had a profound impact on the constitution of imaginaries.

## 2) Inquisitions and Viceregal Courts

Contributions analyzing the balance of power between inquisitorial and viceregal institutions. The viceregal city, seat of the tribunal, is understood as a space of interaction between these two spheres of power in the construction and consolidation of a totalizing colonial jurisdiction, but whose interactions were not always peaceful. For example, how viceregal courts adjusted between representations of the Catholic monarch and that of the Holy Office. How could these courts manage the symbolism inherent in the existence of these two powers? Of specific interests would be contributions analyzing those cities that were all seats of tribunals (Mexico, Lima, Goa).

## 3) Inquisitions and Colonial Societies

Contributions which analyze the diverse ways the Holy Office established itself within colonial societies, in rural as well as urban spaces. Of particular interest, is the use of microhistories to examine inquisitions within their specific contexts, including their alliances, conflicts, hybridizations, interaction with ecclesiastical and civil jurisdictions as well as other sites of justice, and their relation to other dynamics within local societies.

## 4) Inquisitions and Colonial Castas

Contributions relating to the presence of colonial castas and the problem of the indigenous in the context of inquisitorial documentation. Of additional interest are contributions that interrogate the role played by social groups characteristic of the colonial worlds (such as *mestizos*). Such inquiries into the construction of colonial spaces, could include categories such as ethnicity, *mestizaje*, identity, etc.

## 5) Inquisition and Gender

Contributions analyzing gender and sexuality in relation to the inquisitorial phenomenon, including transgressive sexual practices. One example in the colonial context could be the crime of bigamy such cases' conceptualization of places far from European territories and influenced by migratory flows and immense circulation.

## 6) Historiography of the Holy Office

Contributions that investigate the historiography of Inquisition studies concerning the colonial spaces, and the interstices between those and the imperial centers. We are hoping for contributions that conceptualize classic as well as newer works. At the same time, investigations that articulate and analyze historiographic currents and schools, along with the evolution of methods and terminology, are also welcome.

## 7) New Approaches and Trends

Contributions discussing new trends and novel perspectives to studying the Holy Office in the colonial world. Of particular interest would be contributions in fields that have been minimally explored, such as visual arts, music, architecture, literary and satirical production, etc.

In selecting presentations the committee will privilege contributions that utilize and analyze archival materials, innovative methodologies, and interdisciplinary approaches.

## Organization

### Research Group History of the Inquisitions

<http://portal.cehr.ft.lisboa.ucp.pt/Inquisicoes/>

## Sponsors

- Departamento de Historia, Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago de Chile
- Instituto de Historia, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile)
- Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas Alberto Benveniste da Universidade de Lisboa
- Centro de Estudos de História Religiosa, Universidade Católica Portuguesa
- Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba- CIECS-CONICET, Argentina
- Proyecto Fondecyt posdoctoral N° 3170453: "Diáspora de la nación portuguesa en tierras del rey de España: el caso del virreinato peruano durante el siglo XVII"
- Proyecto UNAM PAPIIT IG400619 "Religiosidad nativa, idolatría e instituciones eclesiásticas en los mundos ibéricos, época moderna"

## Executive Committee

Coordinator: **Ignacio Chuecas Saldías** (Instituto de Historia, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile)

**Jaqueline Vassallo** (Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba- CIECS-CONICET, Argentina)

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## Proposal Submissions

Abstracts are due June 30th, 2019 and can be emailed to [SIHInquisiciones@gmail.com](mailto:SIHInquisiciones@gmail.com)

### Guidelines for submitting abstracts

- Submit a proposal, a short summary or complete work, selecting the theme to which it mostly closely relates.
- Limit of one proposal per person.
- The committee will accept proposals in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

### Guidelines for Summaries

The summary should be a text document between three and four pages long (Times New Roman 12, line spacing of 1.5). It should contain: name of author, institutional affiliation, country of residence, e-mail address, presentation title, identification of which conference theme the contribution relates to, objectives of the work, sources used, and expected results.



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