

# **Iberian (In)tolerance: Minorities, Cultural Exchanges, and Social Exclusion in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Era**

## **LAHP-Funded Postgraduate Students-led Conference**

**with the collaboration of King's College London**

**Senate House, Bedford Room 37 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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**Bush House North East Wing, King's College London (S)2.01 (9<sup>th</sup> November)**

The organizers and participants gather to share latest research on the ideological and religious conflicts of late medieval and early modern Iberia, to dismantle some of the preconceptions about the treatment of religious minorities, and to understand the complexities and contradictions inherent in the relation between tolerance and intolerance. Although this well-established area of research, the conference poses new questions and adduces new evidence. You can see the description and the list of international participants by following this link <https://iberianintolerance.wordpress.com/>

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, *El Mundo* published an [attack on the event](#) in its online edition, willfully misrepresenting it as an example of British xenophobia and cultural arrogance. The article has also provoked an often intemperate and abusive reaction on social media. Its author is the well-known polemicist, Elvira Roca Barea, whose recent revisionist history of Spanish Imperialism has achieved a lot of publicity. Those unfamiliar with her views can get a taste of her attitudes from an [earlier interview](#), also published in *El Mundo* in 2016. Some may have heard her speak about her ideas at the Instituto Cervantes in May of this year.

The event is financed by the AHRC funded London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP), which supports graduate research. It now has the additional support of King's College London, provided to make up for the loss of funds originally promised by the Spanish Embassy and the Instituto Cervantes. While they acknowledged the quality and prestige of the speakers, they decided to withdraw their funding and to dissociate themselves from the event.

The conference exemplifies the role of universities in promoting the values of rigorous, evidence based, intellectual inquiry, which is conducted internationally as one antidote to populist nationalism, past or present.

Roser López Cruz, King's College London, PhD Candidate and Conference Organizer  
Virginia Ghelarducci, School of Advanced Study, University of London, PhD Candidate and Conference Organizer

Julian Weiss, Professor of Medieval & Early Modern Spanish, King's College London, Conference Advisor

Alex Samson, Reader in Early Modern Studies, University College London, Plenary Speaker

Trevor J. Dadson, FBA, Corresponding Fellow of the Real Academia Española, Corresponding Fellow of the Real Academia de la Historia, Emeritus Professor of Hispanic Studies, Queen Mary University of London, Plenary Speaker