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The Mediterranean Seminar



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The CU Mediterranean Studies Group and The Mediterranean Seminar present

Reading Aljamiado Manuscripts

A Mediterranean Seminar Summer Skills Seminar

with **Nuria de Castilla** (École Pratique des Hautes Études)

Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 August 2022

via Zoom

Enroll at www.mediterraneanseminar.org by 15 June 2022

This event is made possible by the generous support of Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, Humanities, the Center for Western Civilization, Classics, History, French & Italian, Asian Languages and Civilizations, Spanish and Portuguese, and Philosophy. Administrative support provided by Religious Studies. See www.cumediterranean.info for information and to subscribe. Join the Mediterranean Seminar at www.mediterraneanseminar.org

Enroll: Reading Aljamiado Manuscripts (Summer Skills Seminar: 2-5 August: Remote)

The Mediterranean Seminar and the CU Mediterranean Studies Group invites you to enroll in the "Reading Aljamiado Manuscripts" Summer Skills Seminar, with Prof. Nuria de Castilla, held via zoom from 2-5 August 2022.

Course overview

In the decades following the conquest of Granada in 1492, the free Muslim (Mudéjar) communities of Christian Spain (Mudéjar) were subject to decrees that forced them to convert to Catholicism in 1502 (Castile), 1515 (Navarre) and 1526 (the Crown of Aragon). While some converted genuinely, most Moriscos continued to secretly practice Islam, or developed Islamic modes of religiosity inflected by Christianity and Judaism. In any event, conversion did not bring integration, and Moriscos (both converts and their descendants) continued to be subject to fiscal and legal discrimination, social marginalization, and cultural repression. Andalusí and Islamic cultural practices, including, the wearing of traditional clothes, halal butchery, traditional dances, music, and pastimes, would be eventually prohibited. From the 1560s the use of spoken and written Arabic was forbidden; however, most preserved Morisco texts were copied after that date.

Even prior to this, many or most Mudéjares spoke local Romance vernaculars, and in some areas Arabic had completely disappeared. Mudéjares in the Crowns of Aragon and Castile began writing in Aljamía - local vernaculars with some specific features using Arabic script. This movement gained momentum through the sixteenth century, and a particular variant of the Arabic alphabet developed here. Works produced in Aljamía included copies of the Qur'an, prophetic and sacred works, poetry and secular literature. These works constitute a vivid and unique source for the history and culture of the Mudéjar and Morisco communities of Early Modern Spain. [For more information, see N. de Castilla, "Uses and Written Practices in Aljamiado Manuscripts" and "Les emplois linguistiques et culturels derrière les textes aljamiados".]

This four-day intensive skills seminar will provide participants with an overview of the interests and preoccupations of the Muslim communities of Aragon in the fifteenth, sixteenth and early-seventeenth centuries, as expressed on their own terms, in their own texts, using this unique alphabetic system. We will read, discuss and analyze unpublished and published manuscript fragments held today in various archives and libraries around the world, from the perspective of literal meaning, linguistics, sociology, material culture, historical context, and so on. The focus is on "hands-on" skills, and we will read Aljamiado manuscripts together, progressing through increasingly challenging texts as the course proceeds and students' abilities develop. The contents will be catered as much as possible to the participants' interests and needs. Medievalists and Modernists in all fields, graduate students, and qualified undergraduate students, as well as library and archival professionals are encouraged to apply.

The goal is to provide participants with a solid foundation for reading and understanding the manuscripts and texts produced by these Muslim Spanish communities, essential to understand Spain in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. This course will not only further their own research but also provide them with a bona fide (in the form of a certificate of completion for those who attend the full seminar), which may be advantageous in securing grants or other funding for research and travel. The ability to do research with primary sources is a skill relatively few doctoral students master, and it enhances the research profile and CV of academic job-seekers.

This Summer Skills Seminar builds on the experience of earlier editions, which participants signaled as "transformative" in terms of their research, and which provided them with an opportunity to network and lay the foundations for future collaborations. Please click below for information and participant reviews of our former Skills Seminars.

Faculty

The course will be conducted by Prof. Nuria de Castilla (History of the Book in Arabic Script, École Pratique des Hautes Études, PSL, Paris). A specialist in Arabic Manuscripts, her main research fields are Aljamiado Literature, Arabic Codicology and Paleography and Cultural History in Early Modern Europe, with special attention to Muslim-Christian relations.

Cost

The cost of the course is: \$1000 for Full Professors, Librarians, Professionals, Independent Scholars; \$750 for tenured Associates; \$500 for non-tenured Associates and Assistants & Graduate and Undergraduate students; \$350 for Adjuncts, Lecturers & Contingent faculty. Members of supporting University of Colorado departments may be eligible for a discount. The cost may be tax deductible. Faculty and students from low per capita-GDP countries can apply for a partial or full remission of fees.

Application & Information

Applicants should have at least an intermediate level of reading Spanish. Knowledge of Arabic is advantageous but not required, although participants should familiarize themselves with the basics of Arabic script beforehand.

Please note: sessions will not be recorded; synchronous attendance is required.

Important dates:

Non-refundable deposit (\$50) is due three days after applying (you will receive a confirmation email).

- Application deadline: 15 June 2022
- Tuition deposit (50%): 21 June 2022
- Tuition balance: 7 July 2022
- Late applications may be accepted if there is room in the workshop; an administrative fee of \$50 will be added.

NOTE: Students are encouraged to apply early; if the minimum is not met the course will not be held (in which case, deposits will be returned).

Program

Tuesday, 2 August 2022

9am-11am; noon-2pm

1. Introduction. A Secret Culture in Golden Age Spain.
2. Let's begin reading

Wednesday, 3 August 2022

9am-11am; noon-2pm

1. Travelling in Morisco times
2. Preaching in Morisco times

Thursday, 4 August 2022

9am-11am; noon-2pm

1. Cornerstone
2. Other famous texts

Friday, 5 August 2022

9am-11am; noon-2pm

1. Problems with reading Aljamiado texts
2. Encore! The Qur'an in Mudéjar and Morisco communities

For complete information and to apply see <https://mediterraneanseminar.squarespace.com/2022aljamiado-overview>

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