

Resistance, Religion and Justice

SYMPOSIUM IV



22 - 24 OCTOBER 2019

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN LEGAL HISTORY - GERMANY

VORTRAGSSAAL Z01

Resistance, Religion and Justice

Symposium IV

Call for papers

As part of the project **RESISTANCE: Rebellion and Resistance in the Iberian Empires, 16th-19th centuries** (778076-H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017), the Max-Planck Institute for European Legal History announces the IV Symposium on **Resistance, Religion and Justice** which will take place in **Frankfurt am Main (Germany), 22-24 October 2019**.

Far from being limited to violent outbreaks or specific events, resistance can be expressed in long term processes as well as in everyday life. The same diversity applies to the great variety of social actors and complex means that can be implied in a certain campaign of resistance. Within such a plural approach to the phenomenon of dissension and resistance, the Symposium addresses different processes and episodes that took place within religious and judicial institutions in the Iberian Empires between 16th and 19th century. Even if usually driven by subaltern groups, most of these practices did not use to be considered as a menace to established orders and dominant groups, nevertheless, they had a huge impact in framing and giving new meanings to both secular and ecclesiastical normative production and governance practices. Moreover, the analysis of the entanglements between resistance practices and secular and ecclesiastical normativities allows to illuminate and enhance the agency of social groups often neglected or decontextualized by traditional historiography.

Topics of interest for abstract submission include (but are not limited to) dependency relations, governance practices, circulation and materiality in relation with different expressions of resistance.

Dependency relations and resistance

Various forms of dependence have existed in the Iberian Empires and cannot be simply described by the dichotomy slavery/freedom. In between these two extremes, there were many other forms of asymmetrical dependence. Throughout the many centuries that the Iberian Empires endured, many kinds of labor arrangements subjected different groups of people to specific forms of dependency and to legal statuses that restricted or amplified their capacity to exercise rights or that imposed obligations over them. Very often, subaltern groups reacted against these dependency relations they were part of. The Symposium thus welcomes papers that analyse these different kinds of dependency relations, specially stressing their entanglements with resistance practices.

Governance practices and resistance

Governance practices, particularly in the religious and legal spheres, are a privileged observation point for analysing formal and informal forms and practices of government and administration in the complex context of pre-modern and modern Iberian societies.

These practices involved institutional and social actors of different types, as well as multiple normativities. The interactions between actors as well as the emergent interpretations and uses given to norms have triggered (or have been the vehicle of) manifestations of resistance at different levels and of different intensities. At the same time, the very governance practices have been influenced, enriched and modified by explicit and implicit forms of resistance.

The symposium welcomes proposals that analyse these complex phenomena, with particular attention to ecclesiastical institutions and the action of subaltern groups.

Circulation, materiality and resistance

Resistance has been exhibited also through material culture, objects, artefacts, works of art, different jobs and practical activities. These manifestations seem to be particularly rich in normative and religious context. For this reason it would be interesting to explore the forms of resistance embedded in various kinds of materiality.

One especially interesting field is the connection between practices of resistance, and materiality of the written world on paper, namely the the book in its material aspects. It is important to explore if writing, reading, publishing, and selling books but also note-taking, and the practice of writing marginal comments to printed books, dealing with religious and normative texts and contexts, could be considered as an expression of resistance of subaltern groups in the Iberian empires.

A second important field is the possible form of resistance connected to another kind of text: the body. Bodily signs were largely used to mark and recognise subaltern groups (for example for recognizing religious and social identity) and more and more considered as evidence in early modern trials.

The Symposium welcomes papers that analysis different entanglements between materiality and resistance in normative and religious contexts.

Participation in the Symposium is open to all interested researchers and doctoral students, regardless of their affiliation to the RESISTANCE project. We encourage in particular the presentation of innovative studies, ongoing research projects, interdisciplinary approaches to the topics above mentioned and comparative studies between the Spanish and Portuguese empires in a global perspective. **Prof. Tamar Herzog (Harvard University) is invited as keynote speaker and will give a lecture on 22nd October 2019.**

The Symposium

The Symposium will take place at the Max-Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt (Germany). The activities will start on **22nd October at noon and finish on 24th October at 18:00 circa.**

English, Spanish and Portuguese will be the official languages of the event. In order to permit an engaging discussion, participants are expected to have at least a passive understanding of the two other languages besides that in which they are presenting their paper.

Travel and accommodation costs are not covered by the Institute neither by the RESISTANCE project. Nevertheless, the academic secretary will be happy to help with information about travel organisation and accommodation opportunities in Frankfurt.

Abstract submission

- The maximum word limit for the abstract is 250 words.
- Your abstract should be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese.
- Please send in a brief curriculum vitae together with the Abstract.

Deadlines

- Please send the abstract to Dr. Benedetta Albani (albani@rg.mpg.de) before **31st July 2019**.
- Abstract acceptance will be notified before 20th August 2019.

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