

# European Courts in a Globalized World

## 1400–1700

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Lisbon, Portugal

*Organized by*

ESF Research Networking Programme PALATIUM

*Co-Organized by*

Centro de História de Além-Mar, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

In the Early Modern age, Europe's exposure to and contact with the external, non-European world changed dramatically in scope and degree, and consequently in its very nature. On the one hand, change was brought about by Europe's own expansion beyond its frontiers into Africa, Asia, and America. On the other, the growth of the Ottoman Empire also put pressure on Europe's eastern frontiers while at the same time providing opportunities for political and economic alliances to be forged and for cultural and artistic exchange to take place.

European courts were central agents in this process, and they too changed subsequently. In contact with previously unknown (or scarcely known) political realities, European courts were provided with terms of comparison, some as splendid as the Mughal or Chinese imperial courts, some as *exotic* as the Maya and Aztec empires. New works of art, from African ivories to Japanese folding-screens, from Chinese porcelain to pre-Columbian artifacts, were introduced into the European markets, changing patrons' tastes, acquisition patterns and dynastic gift practices. Worldwide networks of commercial agents were set up, diplomatic missions were sent and received bearing gifts and information, new collections were assembled, and new architectural spaces to display them were devised. *Exotic* objects and themes which mirror Europe's worldwide possessions and a patron's command of the new knowledge of the world became a mandatory part of courtly artistic discourse through their introduction in palace decoration, including gardens where menageries were set up, and in court ceremonies and festivities.

This colloquium is designed to reflect upon the effects of these changes on court life and the spaces in which it took place. It will allow for various European imperial experiences to be brought together and compared, thus setting up the ground for these to be understood in a coherent, all-encompassing narrative, rather than in a nationally-fragmented set of disparate studies.

Papers will be organized around the following four topics:

### ***I. The Empire in Court Ceremonies***

Papers in this session will look at instances in which references to imperial possessions were included in court ceremonies, from Brazilian natives in Henri II's entry in Rouen (1550) to statues depicting the parts of the Portuguese empire in Philip III's entry in Lisbon (1619). Diplomatic missions such as the Japanese envoys of 1585 and/or 1619 to Europe could also be included. The main goal will be to assert whether the empire became (or not) an important or significant part of the courtly discourse and if so in which way.

### ***II. Architectural Spaces to Display the Empire***

Papers in this session will discuss the *Wunderkammer*, the *studiolo* and possible alternatives to these two better known and studied options. Topics may include Spain and Portugal's attitude towards "the exotic" as well as the Danish court and its collections of *ethnographica*. This session may also include papers on menageries and the display of non-European animals in European courts. Papers in this session may question the validity of *Wunderkammer/studiolo* paradigms as interpretative models for courts beyond Italy and Central Europe.

### ***III. Non-European Objects in Palace Decoration***

This session will include papers that discuss the impact (or lack thereof) of non-European objects in palace decoration outside of the specific architectural frameworks set up for "the exotic". Papers may include references to Chinese porcelain used in everyday court life as well as textiles, clothing and furniture. Did empires change European courtly patterns of consumption on an everyday life level or was "the exotic" only and always an exceptional phenomenon?

### ***IV. European Courts Outside of Europe***

Papers in this session will look at the transferral of European court architecture, ceremonial and practices to non-European contexts. Papers should address vice-regal (or their equivalent) courts such as those in Spanish Mexico, Portuguese Goa, or Dutch Jakarta. What happened to courtly residences and the attending practices when these were transported to different climates, far away from the centers for the production of orthodoxy?

### **How to Apply?**

Applications are invited by **25 March 2013**. Please include the following:

- An abstract limited to 300 words, headed by the applicant's name, professional affiliation, and title of the paper. All abstracts must be in English, which will be the working language of the colloquium.
- A one-page curriculum vitae, including a personal or professional address and an e-mail address.

Submit your proposal by e-mail to the conference chair, Dr. Nuno Senos ([nuno.senos@gmail.com](mailto:nuno.senos@gmail.com)), with a copy to the PALATIUM coordinator Dr. Pieter Martens ([pieter.martens@asro.kuleuven.be](mailto:pieter.martens@asro.kuleuven.be)). All applications will be held in confidence during the selection process. Only one submission per author will be accepted. All applicants will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their proposal by 29 April 2013.

## Grants for Junior Researchers

It is one of PALATIUM's goals to provide junior scholars (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers) with specialized outlets to present their work and build their scientific networks. Thus, PALATIUM **strongly** encourages younger scholars who want to participate in this conference to apply for a grant, which will cover travel and lodging costs, as well as some meals. The deadline for grant applications is **3 May 2013**. All grant applications must be made online. See the PALATIUM website for more information:

<http://www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/grants/>

## Publication

A book of abstracts will be produced and made available online prior to the conference. Accepted papers will be published online (with ISBN) at PALATIUM's website. Speakers will be asked to deliver a publishable version of their contribution **one month** after the conference.

## PALATIUM

This colloquium is part of the ESF Research Networking Programme *PALATIUM: Court Residences as Places of Exchange in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400–1700)*. This programme aims at creating a common forum for research on the late medieval and early modern European court residence or “palace” (*palatium*) with an interdisciplinary perspective. The world of the courts 1400–1700 constituted a network of truly European scale and international character, but its architecture is only rarely studied in its “connectivity”. Here the “palace” is seen as a place for cultural exchange. Human interaction in this space is regulated and codified by a set of rules, known as “ceremonial”. The interaction between palace architecture (tangible) and ceremonial (intangible, but known through a set of tangible testimonials of different types, written and visual) is one of the key questions the PALATIUM network aims to address.

The palace's space and form carry multiple connotations. To the informed observer they represent power, lineage, and tradition versus innovation. The decoding of this system of signs necessitates input not only by architectural and art historians, but also by various other disciplines, such as archaeology, politics, literature, theatre and music. The PALATIUM programme wants to encourage theoretical and methodological debates in the field, and aims in particular at stimulating exchanges of knowledge and experience between historians, architectural historians, art historians, and researchers in related disciplines – thus building up a network of scholars, institutions and research groups across Europe which mirrors the international network of courts that is being examined.

The present colloquium belongs to section WP3 of the PALATIUM programme: “Network of Courts”. For further information see [www.courtresidences.eu](http://www.courtresidences.eu).

## CHAM

The Centro de História de Além-Mar (Centre for Overseas History) is a research centre of the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (School of Social Sciences and Humanities) of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa and the Universidade dos Açores, financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

CHAM's work is focused on the history of the Portuguese expansion and the Portuguese presence around the world, in an interdisciplinary perspective, and with a particular focus on the period between the origins of the overseas expansion (1415) and the independence of Brazil (1822). Research activities of CHAM are organized in nine major areas, from economic to religious history, from cultural to political history, each under the responsibility of a PhD researcher. This event is co-organized by the research group dedicated to the study of "The arts and the Portuguese expansion". For further information on CHAM see [www.cham.fcsh.unl.pt](http://www.cham.fcsh.unl.pt).

**Conference Chair:** Dr. Nuno Senos (CHAM, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

**Scientific Committee:** Prof. Jeroen Duindam (Universiteit Leiden)  
 Prof. Luisa Elena Alcalá (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)  
 Prof. Sabine du Crest (Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3)  
 Prof. Krista De Jonge (University of Leuven)  
 Dr. Jessica Hallett (CHAM, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)  
 Dr. Annemarie Jordan (CHAM, Universidade Nova de Lisboa)  
 Dr. Pieter Martens (University of Leuven)

**Coordination:** Dr. Nuno Senos  
 CHAM, Universidade Nova de Lisboa  
 Av. de Berna 26C  
 1069-061 Lisbon  
 Portugal  
[nuno.senos@gmail.com](mailto:nuno.senos@gmail.com)

**Venue:** (to be confirmed)

