

# EARLY MODERN PRIVATE LIBRARIES

# 5-6 November

Sites of Knowledge Construction and Circulation



Universidad Rey Juan Carlos  
Campus Madrid-Argüelles  
Calle Quintana 21 | salón de actos

Registration, info and online meeting:  
<http://eventos.urjc.es/go/libraries>



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The picture on the cover is Plate numbered '2', from *Nova reperta*, which includes a set of 20 prints illustrating new inventions and discoveries after drawings by Jan van der Straet. The set was published in Antwerp, first by Philips Galle (ca. 1591) and later by Karel de Mallery (after 1612), Theodoor Galle (before 1636) and Johannes Galle (before 1677) (New Hollstein). It shows a 'depiction of Flavio Gioia's supposed invention of the compass. He sits at a desk, measuring a compass while consulting a book; a globe and an hourglass are also on his desk. To viewer's left, another desk with books and an armillary sphere, with a model of a sailing ship (a caravel?) hanging from the ceiling above. In the foreground, a lodestone floats on a piece of wood or cork in large bowl of water.' Digital image of Folger Shakespeare Library ART Vol. f81 no.2, <https://digitalcollections.folger.edu/img679/>.

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# About

## CINTER

CINTER (Court, Image, Nobility and Territory) is an interdisciplinary research group of excellence at the Faculty of Arts and the Humanities, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC). From the methodology of Court studies, it has been shown that the Royal Sites of the Hispanic monarchs take on a much more relevant meaning than the purely artistic fact and are situated in the context of the formation of the Monarchy, since their study shows us the evolution of its political organisation, while structuring and organising a large 'courtly' space that polarised territories and surrounding populations and transformed and restructured landscapes. CINTER seeks to explain these processes from an interdisciplinary perspective, paying special attention to the research carried out by the group and the new opportunities that digital technologies offer to dissemination and reconstruction work. More information about CINTER can be found at <https://www.proyectocinter.com/>.

## The Symposium

The international symposium 'Early Modern Private Libraries as Sites of Knowledge Construction and Circulation' is organised by Early Career Researcher Frank Ejby Poulsen, holder of a María Zambrano grant for the attraction of international talents to Spain funded by NextGenerationEU and 'Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia Gobierno de España'.

## The Project OIKOSMOS

Dr Poulsen was awarded the María Zambrano grant for a research project on early modern private libraries focusing on how the world entered the home. At URJC, his research focuses on the private library of Don Juan José de Austria (1629-1679).

He is applying for further funding to finance a broader interdisciplinary research project that would investigate how the world (*kosmos*) entered the home (*oikos*) through early modern private libraries (1500-1800). The aim of this project named OIKOSMOS is to identify the production and circulation of 'worldviews' from early modern private libraries and formulate a new concept for the humanities and social sciences: the 'oikosmos'. The innovative side of the project consists in identifying the production of worldviews by comparing the content of private libraries in the home with the intellectual production or actions of their users. Its second innovation is to analyse the circulation of a worldview outside of its site of production and identify clashes with competing ones. This historical study will contribute to a better understanding of the processes involved in producing and circulating worldviews. The formulation of a new concept, the 'oikosmos', that would explain the production of worldviews, their circulations, and their conflicts is motivated by the following research question: What are the processes involved in the production and circulation of worldviews from early modern private libraries?

# Timetable

KL: Keynote Lecture, CP: Conference Paper, OT: Organiser Talk

## Tuesday, 5 November 2024

9:45–10:00	Registration		
10:00–10:10	OT	<b>Frank Ejby Poulsen</b> URJC, ES	Welcome remarks
10:10–10:20	OT	<b>José Eloy Hortal Muñoz</b> URJC, ES	Introduction on CINTER
10:20–11:00	Keynote Lecture		
10:20–11:00	KL	<b>Jörn Münkner</b> HU Berlin, DE	To what end shall we reconstruct private libraries of the early modern period?
11:00–11:30	Morning Break		
11:30–13:00	Panel 1: Rural and Colonial Production and Circulation of Knowledge		
11:30–11:50	CP	<b>Tim Pye</b> National Trust, UK	Welsh literary culture in country house libraries
11:50–12:10	CP	<b>Abigail Williams</b> Oxford, UK	A Lakeland Library: the books of Townend and their community of rural readers
12:10–12:30	CP	<b>José Manuel Correoso Rodenas</b> UCM, ES	Knowledge Circulation and Production in Colonial New England: Hispanic and/or Catholic Books in Cotton Mather's Library
12:30–13:00	CP	<b>Plenum</b>	Discussion
13:00–14:20	Lunch		
14:20–15:00	Keynote Lecture (Online)		
10:20–11:00	KL	<b>Johan Östling</b> Lund, SE	Introduction to the History of Knowledge: Actors, Circulation, and Forms of Knowledge
15:00–15:30	Morning Break		
15:30–17:00	Panel 2: Globalizing Spaces and Networks		
15:30–15:50	CP	<b>Şerife Eroğlu Memiş</b> Ankara, TR	The First Example of Designing a Separate Space for Books Outside but Connected to the Sufi Lodge Building in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire: The Murad Molla Library
15:50–16:10	CP	<b>Stepan Blinder</b> Cambridge, UK	Globalizing Library Visits in the Early Modern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (16-17th Centuries)

16:10–16:30	CP	<b>Stefano Gulizia</b> Milan, IT	Seventeenth-Century Orientalism and the Early Modern Research Library: from Abraham Rogerius to Johann Diecmann (online)
16:30–17:00	CP	<b>Plenum</b>	Discussion

## Wednesday, 6 November 2024

10:00–10:40	<b>Keynote Lecture</b>		
10:20–11:00	KL	<b>Joëlle Weis</b> Trier, DE	'More for show than for use'? Clearing up Prejudices through Digital Reconstruction of Princesses' Libraries of the 18th Century.
10:40–11:10	<b>Morning Break</b>		
11:10–12:40	<b>Panel 3: Methods and Means of Knowledge Production and Circulation</b>		
11:10–11:30	CP	<b>Wouter Kreuze</b> GIH, USA	Sharing is Caring: Collecting and Comparing Manuscript Newsletters
11:30–11:50	CP	<b>Sarah Hendriks</b> Dublin, IE	Shaping the Past: Antiquarian Libraries and the Writing of Ireland's History
11:50–12:10	CP	<b>Alicia C. Montoya</b> Radboud, NL	How the world of the Enlightenment entered private libraries
12:10–12:40	CP	<b>Plenum</b>	Discussion
12:40–14:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00–14:40	<b>Panel 4: Globalizing Spaces and Networks</b>		
14:00–14:20	CP	<b>Irene Fernández Sáez</b> UCM, ES	María de las Mercedes de Rojas y Tello (1774-1836): A woman's private library at the end of the Old Regime
14:20–14:40	CP	<b>Frank Ejby Poulsen</b> URJC, ES	The private library of Don Juan José de Austria
14:40–15:00	CP	<b>Plenum</b>	Discussion
15:00–16:00	<b>Conclusion in Plenum</b>		
15:00–16:00	OT	<b>Frank Ejby Poulsen</b> URJC, ES	Summing up and Future Plans

# List of Abstracts

Tuesday 6 November

To what end shall we reconstruct private libraries of the early modern period?

Jörn Münkner

KL

Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

‘Tell me of your library, and I shall know your scope of knowledge and more’. The early modern private library is a valuable source for the assessment of the book handling, the knowledge interests and the research endeavours of the owner – to name just a few insights that can be derived from private libraries. I am not questioning the fact that historical private libraries are sites of knowledge (and more) and should be reconstructed. I would like to discuss the question to what extent a historical private library can be categorised as a twofold memory site: a site of individual memory (the library’s owner and his/her book interests) and a site of memory of the epoch in which the library is established. Examples from my own work shall demonstrate how I have reconstructed early modern private libraries and to what end.

**Bio:** Jörn Münkner was a member of the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin where he received his doctorate in German Studies with a thesis on broadsheets of the early modern period (2008). Since 2015 Jörn Münkner has worked at the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel as part of the Marbach Weimar Wolfenbüttel Research Network (MWW). He explores private libraries and intellectual networks of scholars in the early modern period. He has co-edited three volumes related to historical collection research and the reconstruction of private libraries *Biographien des Buches*, with Ulrike Gleixner, Constanze Baum and Hole Rößler, Göttingen 2017; *Autorschaft und Bibliothek: Sammlungsstrategien und Schreibverfahren*, with Caroline Jessen, Stefan Höppner und Ulrike Trenkmann, Göttingen 2018; and *Sammlung und Netz: Theoretische und praxeologische Implikationen*, with Maximilian Görmar and Joëlle Weis, Göttingen 2024. His latest article, together with Maximilian Görmar and Hartmut Beyer, is ‘Digitale Exploration und hermeneutische Bewertung. Profilierung einer frühneuzeitlichen Gelehrtenfigur mittels Netzwerkanalyse am Beispiel von Leonhard Christoph Sturm (1669–1719)’, *Zeitschrift für digitale Geisteswissenschaften*, 2022.

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## 'On acct. of ye Welch Libraries' – Welsh literary culture in country house libraries

Tim Pye

CP

National Trust, United Kingdom

Within the Welsh Marches—the border country between England and Wales—sit two significant country houses and their libraries: Chirk Castle and Erddig. The former has its origin in the 13th century while the latter was built at the end of the seventeenth century. Both are now National Trust properties.

As with many Welsh country houses they are often perceived as outposts of the English gentry and nobility, the resident families having little in the way of Welsh pedigree or interest in their nation of residence. The same is true of their libraries, with few apparent references or connections to the rich culture and language of the Welsh country. In *A Nation and its Books*,<sup>1</sup> Trevor Lloyd makes a pointed reference to a country house owner who in being said to be 'very keen on the Welsh language' was a noted outlier.

However, recent research has highlighted tantalising evidence that these 'English' houses may have significant connections to the history of the Welsh language, the provision of literature and the establishment of early public libraries in Wales. This paper will analyse these connections, drawing out the hitherto underemphasized interaction between the Welsh world (including its minority language) and the literary history of the region's country houses and their libraries, with a particular focus on the century following the publication of *Y Beibl Bach* ('The Little Bible') in 1630.

**Bio:** Tim Pye is National Curator for Libraries at the National Trust. He is the strategic lead for the charity's 200+ historic book collections in its care and co-author of *100 Books From the Libraries of the National Trust* (2023).

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<sup>1</sup>Lloyd, T. (1998). 'Country-house Libraries of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries' in P. H. Jones (Ed.), *A Nation and its Books: a History of the Book in Wales* (pp. 135-46). National Library of Wales.

## A Lakeland Library: the books of Townend and their community of rural readers

Abigail Williams

CP

University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Townend Farm is a modest whitewashed farmhouse in a deep valley near Windermere in Cumbria. Until 1943, it was the home of the Browne family, lived in for four centuries by generations of yeoman farmers. It's an ordinary house, but what is extraordinary about it is its sizeable book collection, including a significant number assembled in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century by a father and son, Old and Young Ben Browne. Their collection is the only one of its kind to survive from a family of their social class, and it contains a wide range of literary, historical and religious works. The evidence of marginalia within the surviving copies shows a close engagement with a range of intellectual interests, and a deep curiosity about the world. It provides a test case for the ways we think about the role of a domestic library in a rural community setting. The Brownes were not rare and anomalous bibliophiles collecting away in a remote rural environment where few shared their bookish passions. Their books evidence ongoing patterns of exchange in the local neighbourhood. The Brownes were readers whose lives and books were in dialogue with their family, friends and neighbours. Their access to reading was enabled by local connections, and their books speak of these links. An informal local exchange system of swapping and gifting enabled them and their neighbours to access a wider range of reading than they would have been able to reach within the constraints of a single family budget. In looking at the range of evidence of book use within the Townend collection, along with the family papers in the local archive, I hope to use this article to explore the ways we might describe non elite book use and reading habits, and how we better understand the mixed literacies within a remote rural community.

**Bio:** Abigail Williams is Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of Oxford, and the Associate Head of Research and Innovation in the Humanities at Oxford. She is a scholar of eighteenth-century literature and the author of *Reading it Wrong* (Princeton 2023) *The Social Life of Books* (Yale 2017), *The Journal to Stella* (CUP 2013) and *Poetry and the Creation of a Whig Literary Culture* (OUP 2005). She also writes and presents for BBC Radio 4, including the series *I Feel Therefore I Am* (2023) and *Pride or Prejudice: How We Read Now* (2022).

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## Knowledge Circulation and Production in Colonial New England: Hispanic and/or Catholic Books in Cotton Mather's Library<sup>2</sup>

José Manuel Correoso Rodenas

CP

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Usually, when the puritan colonial period of North America is discussed, there is a strong emphasis placed over ministers' cultural and intellectual background, rooted in the classical and the Biblical traditions. However, as we approach the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, this scope needs to be expanded. The political defeat of the puritans meant a progressive assimilation of the New England colonies, with new confessions taking part in the cultural and religious debate. In consequence, puritan intellectuals assumed the necessity of proselytizing in order to preserve their communities (an attitude that had been denied in previous historical moments). In this context, Cotton Mather, belonging to two of the most prominent families of the puritan ministry (the Cottons and the Mathers), shouldered the mission of spreading the Calvinist faith over the Catholic subjects of New Spain, producing pamphlets in Spanish. This mission that was never completed, but it granted Cotton Mather the opportunity of acquiring additional knowledge about Spain and the Spanish language and culture (specially religious culture).

Although the production and cultural significance of the Mather family has been extensively studied (specially due to their involvement at Harvard and Yale), and their library meticulously catalogued, we still lack an evaluation of the Hispanic contents that Cotton added to it (Kirsten Silva Gruesz made a timid approach in her 2022 volume *Cotton Mather's Spanish Lessons*). In consequence, the objective of this proposal is to offer an extensive evaluation of how Cotton Mather's library was probably the most significant in New England regarding Hispanic issues, and how this collection of Spanish-related materials was crucial for the preaching conversion-oriented mission that Cotton Mather aimed to undertake.

**Bio:** José Manuel Correoso-Rodenas holds a PhD in English (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain) and he is currently an Assistant Professor of English at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). His areas of interest and research are mainly Gothic Literature and Native American Studies, in which he has presented several papers at national and international conferences. Among his recent publications, some of the most outstanding examples are: *Edición y estudio de La fe del Cristiano y La religion pura (1699), de Cotton Mather* (Editorial Síndesis) and "'The very land of romance": Original Compositions on Spain and the Spanish in The Southern Literary Messenger (1834-1864)' (*EJAS. European Journal of American Studies*). He has also edited the volume *Teaching Language and Literature On and Off-Canon* (IGI Global). He is currently the Academic Secretary of the scholarly journal *Amaltea. Revista de Mitocrítica*.

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<sup>2</sup>This proposal belongs to the activities of the Research Group 'Poéticas y textualidades emergentes. Siglos XIX-XXI' (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), of the Research Group 'Estudios interdisciplinarios de Literatura y Arte' (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha), of the Complutense Institute for the Study of Religion and of the Research Institute of Humanism and Classical Tradition (Universidad de León).

# Introduction to the History of Knowledge: Actors, Circulation, and Forms of Knowledge

*Johan Östling*

KL

Lund University, Sweden

The history of knowledge has established itself as a new, vital field of research in recent years. In his lecture, Johan Östling will give an introduction to this field and discuss some of its main directions and key concepts. He will essentially draw on his recently published book *The History of Knowledge* (Cambridge University Press), co-written with David Larsson Heidenblad.

**Bio:** Johan Östling is Professor of History, Director of the Lund Centre for the History of Knowledge (LUCK) and Wallenberg Academy Fellow. His research is devoted to the history of knowledge, but he has a general interest in the intellectual, political and cultural history of modern and contemporary Europe. Östling has recently launched a project on the Europeanisation of the universities and the formation of the 'knowledge societies'.

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# The First Example of Designing a Separate Space for Books Outside but Connected to the Sufi Lodge Building in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire: The Murad Molla Library

Şerife Erođlu Memiş

CP

Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkey

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the expanding Ottoman elite provided significant financial resources to both educational institutions and libraries through the institution of *waqf*. Thanks to the increase in the number of religious and cultural institutions based on the *waqf* concept as a result of the distribution of income and wealth in favour of these classes, by the end of the seventeenth century, in addition to the libraries of madrasas, tombs, mosques and Sufi lodge libraries, private libraries serving both the scholarly class and the public emerged as a new genre, and within a century, their number increased significantly in the capital Istanbul and other cities. Established through *waqfs*, these libraries provided a remarkable number of books to readers from all social classes in Ottoman society.

This study aims to examine the Murad Molla Library in terms of the production and circulation of knowledge in Istanbul and its surrounding area, focusing on the collection that reflected the interest and needs of the owner and his extended household. The founder of the library, Dâmadzâde Mehmed Murâd Efendi, was an Ottoman scholar, judge, chief judge and lover of books, belonging to the Mujaddidiyya branch of the Naqshbandî order. He built two buildings in the Tevkii Cafer neighborhood in the Çarşamba district in Fatih, Istanbul, which can be considered as a 'small complex' consisting of a sufi lodge and a library. The library named after Dâmadzâde Mehmed Murâd Efendi was established in 1775. The foundation of the library's collection consisted of the founder's own books, books from the library of his grandfather, Shaykhulislam Ebü'l-hayr Dâmadzâde Ahmed Efendi, which he had established in the Sultan Selim Mosque, and the books of his father, Shaykhulislam Dâmadzâde Feyzullah Efendi and Minkarîzâde Abdullah Efendi from the same family.

**Bio:** Şerife Erođlu Memiş is a historian and works on the social and economic history of the Ottoman Empire during the early modern period. Her dissertation examined the rise of local notables in relation to the *waqf* institution in Ottoman Jerusalem. She studied at METU (Middle East Technical University- BA history & MA Middle East Studies) and Hacettepe University (PhD history). She has taught in Social Sciences University of Ankara; she is currently associate professor of History at the Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University. She is the author of many articles and books, including *Kudüs-i Şerif* (Jerusalem) (1997), 'Between Ottomanization and Local Networks: Appointment Registers as Archival Sources' for *Waqf Studies* (2018), *Osmanlılaşma ve Yerel Ağlar Arasında Kudüs'te Vakıf, Toplum ve Devlet* (Between Ottomanization and Local Networks: Waqf, Society and the State in Jerusalem) (1703-1831), *Osmanlı'da Hac Kültürünün Dolaşımında Hac El Yazmaları* (Pilgrimage Manuscripts in the Circulation of Pilgrimage Culture in the Ottoman Empire) (2022).

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# Globalizing Library Visits in the Early Modern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Sixteen-Seventeenth Centuries)

Stepan Blinder

CP

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

This paper investigates performative parameters of a 'library visit' phenomenon in early modern Poland-Lithuania based on the case study of the 1574 visit of King Henry Valois to the University of Cracow Library. While contextualising the early modern phenomenon of library visits with Antique scholarship and Renaissance Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Armenian, and Jewish reflections on notions of an 'ideal/universal' library, the paper argues that exceptional aesthetical accompaniment of a library interior on the one hand and diversified structure of collections that went far beyond books since the early sixteenth century turned parish, corporate, and private libraries around Europe into desirable places for observation. The paper insists that major Polish-Lithuanian libraries adopted reiterated by Renaissance scholars notions of Antique 'universal' libraries, and since the mid-16th century attracted distinguished visitors for accumulating institutional social and symbolic capitals in order to overcome financial and administrative crises.

The paper is divided into three sections. The first section analyses late Antique and medieval images of libraries as sacred spaces. Based on comparison of library visits around Europe the section suggests exceptional decoration of library spaces to be predominant in attracting visitors to libraries. The second section discusses structure of library collections and argues that besides book libraries involved maps, globes, stuffed animals and various 'curiosities'. The combination of books and manuscripts with 'exotic' artefacts made libraries desirable for visitors as much as exceptional interior. Finally, the third part based on the case study of the 1574 Cracovian University library visit traces how professors of the *Collegium Maius* while combining organisation of space and extraordinary collections mobilised visitors of exceptional social and political importance until the late seventeenth century.

**Bio:** Stepan Blinder is a final-year PhD Candidate in Slavonic Studies at the University of Cambridge with a Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholarship. His scholarly interests involve the history of books and knowledge circulation, library management and book exchange, and urban transfers in early modern Eastern Europe. Before coming to Cambridge, Stepan received his Bachelor's (2016) and Master's (2018) of Arts degrees in History at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine). From 2018 to 2019, Stepan served as a Research Fellow at the University of Warsaw (Warsaw, Poland) specializing in early modern Eastern European urban history.

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## Seventeenth-Century Orientalism and the Early Modern Research Library: from Abraham Rogerius to Johann Diecmann

Stefano Gulizia

CP

University of Milan

This study investigates the theme of 'ethnography in the household', making the claim that the penetration of far-flung religious systems into the intellectual economy of early modern libraries relied on note-taking techniques, book-binding, and a variety of textual and visual artifacts. The focus is seventeenth-century orientalism, seen in its post-Westphalian configuration, between Northern Germany and the Netherlands. In the first part, the essay follows the development of private libraries as a specific cultural form, their relationship with the genre of *historia literaria* and the Republic of Letters, and a distinction between 'research' and 'academic' workshops. The second part analyzes La Grue's 1670 French translation of Abraham Rogerius's *Open-Deure*, a pioneering account of Hinduism. Who had access to the original manuscript? What is the role of a widow in a printing industry? What can be said of the anonymous annotator A.W., who has been recently identified in Arnold Wittens? And if indeed it was him, how does the study of his library's auction catalogue shed light into the highly humanistic, often Rabbinic and Neoplatonic, supplements to Rogerius's plain narrative? Finally, the essay concludes by comparing these findings with the scholarly practices of German universities in the pre-Enlightenment period, and more specifically by concentrating on Johann Diecmann's activity. Does his antiquarian bibliography echo in a cycle of student dissertations that he supervised? Are these texts an example of the deeply collaborative features of private libraries? In what sense Diecmann's lexicon on the history of the church and proto-language theories depended on his collection of miscellaneous manuscripts and on the Rudbeckian paradigm of Gothicism coming from across the Baltic?

**Bio:** Stefano Gulizia is a senior lecturer at the University of Milan. He serves as the president of *Scientiae* and is the editor in chief of the *Scientiae Studies* book series. His last essays include 'Cartesianism between Northern Europe, Germany, and the Medici Court' (Brepols 2023), 'Assembling the Scribal Self', in *Beyond the Learned Academy* (Oxford 2024) and 'Disputing the Animation of the Heavens in Rome around 1616' (Centaurus 2024, with PD Omodeo). His last book is *Gian Vincenzo Pinelli e la circolazione libraria tra Padova e la corte asburgica, 1570-1600* (Franco Angeli 2024); he is also the author of *The Desolation of Empires: Martino Martini and the Jesuit Construction of China in the Seventeenth-Century Republic of Letters* (forthcoming at Brill).

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## Wednesday 6 November

### 'More for show than for use'? Clearing up Prejudices through Digital Reconstruction of Princesses' Libraries of the Seventeenth Century.

*Joëlle Weis*

KL

Trier University, Germany

The keynote gives insight into a long-term research project on the private libraries of 18th-century German princesses. More than 100 of these private libraries are preserved in one form or another until today and they give spectacular insights into their knowledge practices and knowledge organisation. This project aims to create a platform that acts as a repository for women's libraries from the 18th century, facilitating virtual reconstructions of these collections to provide a thorough understanding of their contents and functions. Utilizing Linked Open Data, the project seeks to interconnect these collections within a Wikibase, enabling comparative analyses. The goal is to get an impression of how the libraries were actually used and to gain an understanding of their social, epistemic and dynastic-representative functions. The presentation will reflect on methodological issues as well as discuss the benefit of choosing an approach of digital library reconstruction, especially in the still underresearched field of women's book history.

**Bio:** Joëlle Weis is head of the research area 'Digital Literary and Cultural Studies' at the Trier Center for Digital Humanities (Trier University). She is the PI in the 'Princess Libraries and Knowledge Practices in 18th-century Germany' project that started in October 2024. Her research interests include the history of early modern scholarship, collection studies and digital methods in the humanities.

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## Sharing is Caring: Collecting and Comparing Manuscript Newsletters

Wouter Kreuze

CP

German Historical Institute Washington and George Mason University, USA

During the early modern era, handwritten newsletters, often referred to as *avvisi*, became prevalent in both private and public archives. Alongside epistolary correspondence, these manuscripts were crucial in keeping notable households informed about the latest global developments. Given the adaptable nature of the *avviso* genre, news agents frequently copied and modified texts to cater to their clients, ensuring a steady stream of information. This study compares some of the most extensive and significant *avvisi* collections, aiming to discern their differences and commonalities.

Leveraging Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) technology, I've obtained rough transcriptions of a substantial number of newsletters from various European collections. Currently, my focus lies on the newsletters of the mercantile Fugger brothers from Augsburg (Germany), Daniel van der Meulen, a merchant from Leiden (Netherlands), the collection of the Burgomaster of Groningen (also Netherlands), the Leiden City Council (Netherlands), and the Medici family from Florence (Italy).

This dataset of rough transcriptions enables me to identify instances of text reuse on an individual basis and conduct more comprehensive research on a macro level. The former sheds light on how identical news items were tailored to suit different clients and how diverse perspectives could shape the presentation of the same news. The latter allows me to check whether these adaptations also manifest itself when looked on from a bird's eye view.

By collecting and comparing various family collections in this manner, this paper seeks to enhance our understanding of how early modern handwritten news circulated among different households.

**Bio:** Wouter Paul Kreuze is a Postdoctoral researcher with a Gerda Henkel Fellowship at the German Historical Institute Washington and George Mason University. He holds a PhD in Digital History from University College Cork with a dissertation on *Things in Time. A Digital Synchronic Approach to Manuscript Newsletters* (within the EURONEWS project). He has published 'Temporal Philology Reconstructing Patterns of *Avvisi* Creation and Distribution With Travel Times'. *Magazen*. Dr Kreuze has presented his several papers at various recent conferences, such as the Renaissance Society of America Conference, in 2023 and 2022, the *Sixteenth Century Society Conference*, Baltimore in 2023, in 2022 the *SKILLNET Conference*, Utrecht University.

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## Shaping the Past: Antiquarian Libraries and the Writing of Ireland's History

Sarah Hendriks

CP

Trinity College Dublin/Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury, Ireland

The official founding of the Society of Antiquaries in 1707 formalised a growing tradition of British antiquarian activity that had begun in the mid-sixteenth century. Across these c. 150 years, an increasingly active network of antiquarians and scholars developed a market for published accounts of the antiquities and histories of various nations. This phenomenon is of particular interest to the history of Ireland, since it coincides with the consolidation of Ireland as an English colony, and the emergence of dedicated antiquarian historical accounts of the country. This paper examines how the private libraries of Irish antiquarians were formed, and how this process influenced the creation of early modern 'histories' of Ireland. The paper draws on an extensive analysis of the private manuscript libraries across both Ireland and England that were used to create published histories of Ireland. This data has been analysed to understand the various modes through which knowledge (most often in manuscript form) entered and interacted with personal collections in the home. The analysis covers the interplay of copies, lending of original manuscripts, creation of forgeries, and acquisition of original materials. The creation and circulation of materials, and their role in the writing of Irish histories, is particularly important as they frequently preserve or reference historical materials that are otherwise lost from the public record.

The paper demonstrates how private library collections were compiled and their role in creating Irish histories. It argues that the circulation of manuscript material was guided by proximity to knowledge networks and that these networks influenced the intellectual milieu of private libraries and their ensuing publications. Finally, it discusses to what extent the circulation of manuscripts into Ireland operated as a form of intellectual colonisation and whether private collections in Ireland functioned as colonial knowledge hubs, reinforcing or subverting English views.

**Bio:** Sarah Hendriks is a Research Fellow and Collecting History Coordinator at Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury and a Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin. She holds a PhD in Architectural History from the University of Edinburgh with a thesis on *An Architecture for Music: Building for secular music performance in the British Isles c.1660-1800*. Dr Hendriks has published on various topics including manuscript and collection history, architectural history; textual editions of papyri and early modern manuscripts. She has been invited to present at international conferences and symposia on topics relating to digital humanities, architectural history, manuscripts and palaeography, and papyrology.

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## How the world of the Enlightenment entered private libraries

Alicia C. Montoya

CP

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The eighteenth century witnessed a series of momentous cultural transformations that culminated in a European-wide, indeed global Age of Revolution. From the 1760s through the 1790s, social transformations were mediated through multiple forms of printed text, as interlocking movements throughout Europe shaped new political ideals. Books that espoused reformist or even revolutionary ideas entered the home, and reached even individuals far removed from public life, such as women and household servants, through private libraries.

But what were individuals actually reading in the age of Enlightenment, in the run-up to revolution, and as 'reverberations of revolution' echoed across the globe? For over a century now, historians have turned to quantitative approaches to address questions about the link between books and societal change during the age of Enlightenment. From Daniel Mornet's pioneering study, in the early years of the twentieth century, of the contents of 500 eighteenth-century French private library auction catalogues, to Robert Darnton's quantitative study of the order books of the Swiss-based Société Typographique de Neuchâtel, the premiss has been that by creating new economies of scale, patterns and trends will become visible that point toward the decisive works driving societal change.

This paper will present the analytic possibilities furnished by the European Research Council-funded MEDIANE database (Disseminating Ideas, Authors and Texts in Europe, 1665-1830), containing data drawn from 750 sale catalogues of libraries sold throughout Europe (France, British Isles, Netherlands, Italy, Spain), in order to demonstrate how the methods of 'distant reading' it enables can offer new perspectives on age-old questions linking books and revolution. Adopting a geographically comparative approach, it asks to what extent the Enlightenment world reached private libraries, which Enlightenment this was exactly, whose libraries, and what national differences can tell us both about library culture, and about the nature of 'the' European Enlightenment more broadly.

**Bio:** Alicia C. Montoya is Professor of French Literature and Culture at Radboud University. She was the Principal Investigator of the 2016-2021 ERC-funded MEDIANE project (Disseminating Ideas, Authors and Texts in Europe, 1665-1830), and is currently directing a follow-up project, funded by the Dutch Research Council, titled Civic Fictions: Modelling book-reader interactions in the Age of Revolution, c. 1760-1830. She is the author of *Medievalist Enlightenment: From Charles Perrault to Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (Cambridge 2013), *Marie-Anne Barbier et la tragédie post-classique* (Paris 2007, winner of the Keetje Hodson Prize of the Royal Dutch Society for Arts and Sciences) and the co-editor of several volumes, including *La pensée sérielle, du Moyen Age aux Lumières* (Leiden, 2019), *Early Modern Medievalisms: The Interplay between Scholarly Reflection and Artistic Production* (Leiden, 2010), *Women Writing Back / Writing Back Women: Transnational Perspectives from the Late Middle Ages to the Dawn of the Modern Era* (Leiden, 2010) and *Lumières et histoire / Enlightenment and History* (Paris 2010). She is currently working on a monograph, with Simon Burrows, provisionally titled *The Enlightenment Common Reader*.

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# María de las Mercedes de Rojas y Tello (1774-1836): A woman's library at the end of the Old Regime

Irene Fernández Sáez

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The Enlightenment changed how gender was perceived, creating and consolidating, along the eighteenth century, public (male) and private (female) spaces. Alongside the conformation of the domestic and private space, the activity of reading started to be conceived as a personal and individual activity, which also took place in the female day-to-day. By studying female libraries, which were owned by social and economic privileged women, it is possible to understand not only their interests, but also how they were educated in order to follow a feminine domestic role.

Near the end of the Old Regime, María de las Mercedes de Rojas y Tello (1774-1836), IV marchioness of Villanueva de Duero and X countess of Villariego, was educated to be the only heiress of an important amount of assets and properties. Her private correspondence evidences how she managed her legacy as well as how she performed as one of María Luisa de Parma's ladies. Attending to the main ideas of the Enlightenment but also to her personal context, her library, which has been studied from her *post-mortem* inventory, represents this complex tension between women power and the feminine and moral ethics they should follow. In doing so, María de las Mercedes de Rojas' library bound together different topics. On the one hand, religious, philosophic and hagiographic readings tried to reinforce the good virtues in women's behaviour, but, on the other, geography, history, grammar, geometry and politics were a sample of the knowledge a female title holder must also perceive.

**Bio:** Irene Fernández Sáez holds a double degree in History and Journalism (Rey Juan Carlos University), Master's Degree in Gender Studies (Complutense University of Madrid). Nowadays, PhD candidate with a pre-doctoral contract (Modern History and Contemporary History Department at Complutense University of Madrid). Her thesis looks at the women who were part of the Spanish Court between 18th century, especially the Old Regime's crisis, and the first decades of 19th century. She focuses on the study of their biographies and how they developed informal power while surrounded consort queens. This thesis is part of the research project 'Poderosas, influyentes, comprometidas y útiles. La vida de las mujeres en los espacios cortesanos, domésticos, económicos, políticos y culturales (España en el largo siglo XVIII)', led by Gloria Franco Rubio and Natalia González Heras.

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## The private library of Don Juan José de Austria

Frank Ejby Poulsen

CP

Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain

This paper explores the relationship between knowledge and power by investigating the intellectual patronage of a statesman at the heart of the Spanish monarchy, Juan José de Austria (1629-1679), through his library and networks. By establishing intellectual institutions and sponsoring intellectuals, he directly influenced the constitution and diffusion of knowledge, particularly his reformist view of the monarchical institution. His library offers the possibility to explore the relationship between the ideas he favoured and the context of his time by assessing which books are in the library and which are not as well as which authors he sponsored. He was in favour of a composite monarchy, which respected local customs and cultures, rather than a centralised one imposing the Spanish ways everywhere.

Juan José de Austria, recognised illegitimate son of Philip IV of Spain (reign 1621-1665), was a general and fought decisive battles for the king. He held several positions of power from Naples to Sicily, Cataluña to Consuegra, Aragon to Portugal, as well as Flanders and the Low Countries. He defended his half-brother king Charles II (reign 1665-1700) after the death of their father against the claim of the widow regent queen mother Mariana of Spain. He managed to expel her from the court in 1677 and became prime minister. However, he died, possibly poisoned in 1679, unable to carry on his reform. Like his father, he had a strong interest in intellectual debates, as his vast collection of books demonstrates.

**Bio:** Frank Ejby Poulsen is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos with a María Zambrano grant for the attraction of international talents to Spain funded by NextGenerationEU. He defended his PhD in history at the European University Institute in 2018, and holds master's degrees in law from the University of Paris1 Panthéon-Sorbone and political science from the University of Copenhagen. His first monograph was published based on his thesis in 2023 with De Gruyter in open access after winning a competition prize: *The Political Thought of Anacharsis Cloots: A Proponent of Cosmopolitan Republicanism in the French Revolution*. Frank won a 6-month Junior Fellowship grant at the Humboldt Centre of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, which he will start in January 2025. In 2019-2022, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence 'PRIVACY', University of Copenhagen.

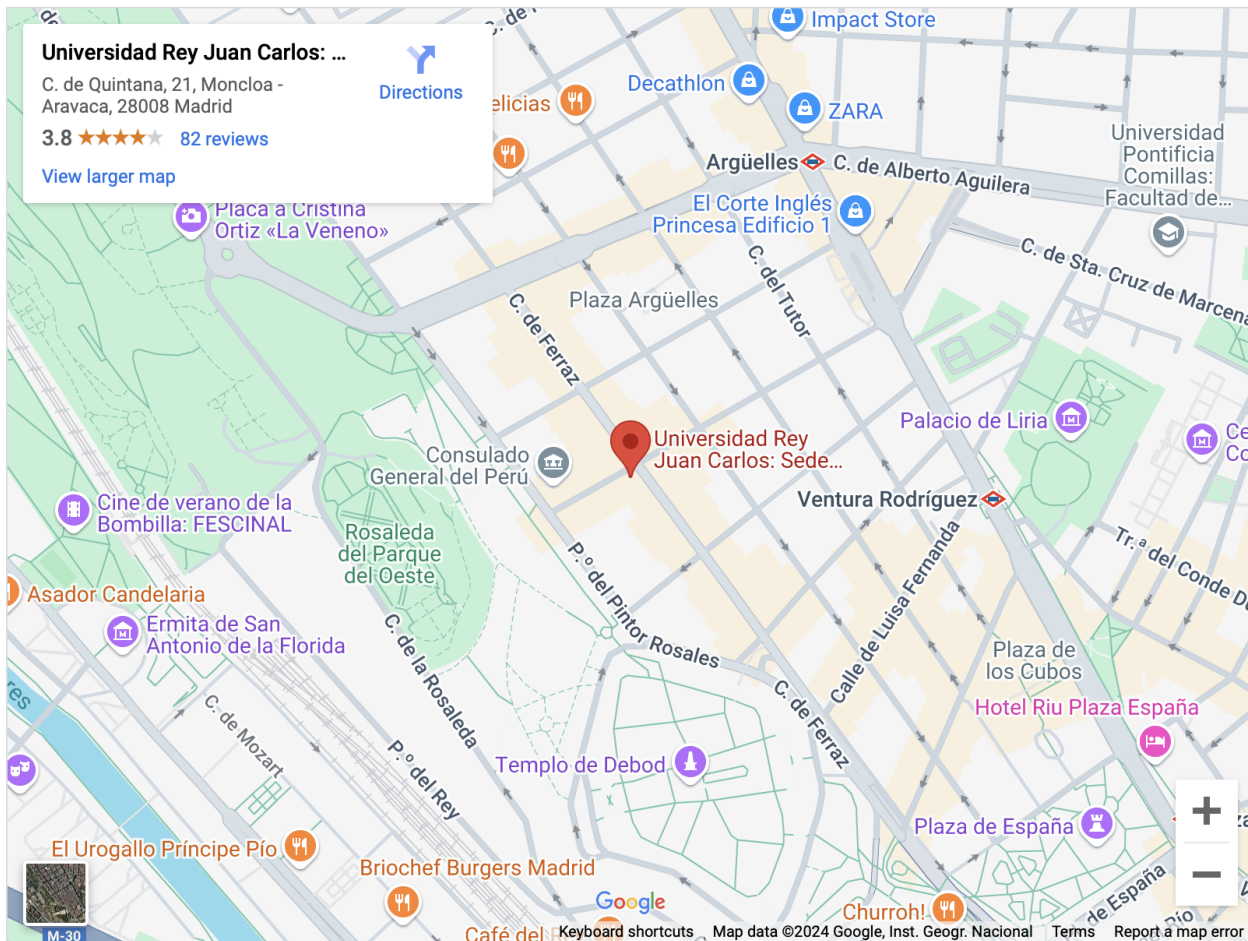
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# List of Participants






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# Useful Information

The symposium takes place at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC), in the Madrid-Argüelles Campus building located on Calle de Quintana 21. The room is the 'Salón de Actos' on the ground floor in the back, right by the staircase after entering. Click the map for the link:



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The international symposium 'Early Modern Private Libraries as Sites of Knowledge Production and Circulation' is part of the activities organised by Frank Ejby Poulsen in the framework of the María Zambrano grant for the attraction of international talents to Spain, funded by NextGeneration EU and 'Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia Gobierno de España'. The symposium is hosted at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, and funded by the research group CINTER.

## Sponsors



