S-116 – Adapting and resisting: the new ways of empiricism in Early Modern Iberia

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Abstract:
In recent years there has been an intense and interesting historiographical activity in the field of Iberian science of the early modern age. We have witnessed the emergence and consolidation of a number of influential lines of force such as studies on the narratives about the natural world; the creation of a new empirical culture and new communities of practitioners in the Atlantic world; the production of artefacts and scientific instruments and other forms of material culture; the establishment of long-distance networks and circuits of information and knowledge; the emergence of institutions in the form of long-distance corporations; and, in general, the impact all these factors had on the European everyday life. Thanks to the work of different authors (Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, William Eamon, Juan Pimentel, Jose Pardo-Tomás, Maria M. Portuondo, Antonio Barrera, among many others), we have learned much about all these aspects -- but there is no doubt that there are still many other aspects to explore.

The aim of this symposium is to examine new lines of work in studies of Iberian science, as well as to look into old topics with the support of more recent methodologies or new empirical evidence. We invite contributors to look into our problems using modern approaches such as historical epistemology, history of the emotions or the history of the subjective experience, or to use the external methodologies from other related disciplines, such as economic history, social history, cultural history, sociology or anthropology. This symposium invites reflection on the old question of the role of Iberia in the emergence of the early modern europe, but suggests doing so by exploring new themes and new avenues of research. We suggest, in particular, reflections on the category of experience, on the notion of progress, the collaboration and communication between different communities of artisans and scholars, the style and production of knowledge in vernacular, etc.

Keywords: Early modern science – Iberian Science – Atlantic World – Globalization.

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