

Call

The Advanced Grant “Conversion, Overlapping Religiosities, Polemics and Interaction: Early Modern Iberia and Beyond” (CORPI) is a five year project financed by the ERC based in the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences of the CSIC, Madrid, Spain.

PI. Prof. Mercedes García-Arenal.

CORPI is opening a call for:

-Two Post-doctoral positions for a two-year period extendable to five years. Candidates must have a doctorate in Medieval or Early Modern History or/and Arabic and Islamic or Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish or Latin is necessary. The candidate must work on a topic of research included in the general themes and objectives of the project. He/she will carry out his own project, but also participate in teamwork. He/she will contribute to the research activities of CORPI (such as conferences and seminars) supervise PhD students and be included in all aspects of the project. Working languages will be Spanish and English.

Requisites:

- Official transcript or equivalent of the title that enables the candidate to apply for the fellowship (doctorate). It will be needed only when the candidate selected will begin his/her contract.
- - cv
- Research project.
- Sample of work, such as published articles or book chapters or unpublished chapter of PhD thesis.
- References. Only names and emails of the proposed referees are needed.

Post-docs. will receive, in the first two year period, 26.733,28 euros divided in 14 payments of 1.909, 52 euros. If the contract is renewed for another three years, the increase in salary will be substantial.

-Four five years PhD positions. Candidates must have a Master Degree in Medieval or Early Modern History or/and Arabic and Islamic or Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Knowledge of Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish or Latin is necessary. The candidate must work on a topic of research included in the general themes and objectives of the project. Working languages will be Spanish and English.

Requisites:

- Official transcript or equivalent of the title that enables the candidate to apply for the fellowship: Spanish “licenciatura”, Master degree or equivalent in your country. It will be needed only when the candidate selected will begin his/her contract.
- Candidates which do not have a Master will have to finish one (60 credits) in the first year of the grant
- - cv
- PhD project statement.
- Sample of work, such as published articles or book chapters or unpublished work, such as Master thesis.
- References. Only names and emails of the proposed referees are needed.

PhD positions will receive 22.128, 96 per year in 14 payments of 1. 580,64 euros.

The call is open from 15 April 2013 to 31 May 2013. Interviews will take place at the end of June or first days of July. The positions will start from October 2013. Applications must be sent to corpi@cchs.csic.es

ERC Advanced Grant 2012

Conversion, Overlapping Religiosities, Polemics, and Interaction: Early Modern Iberia and Beyond

CORPI

This project is concerned with questions of religious change and specifically of the change brought about by forced mass conversion in late medieval/early modern Iberia. It will study adversarial relationships reconceived as dependencies, against a complex backdrop of dramatic religious change.

It departs from two convictions: Firstly, that new Converts constituted complex groups, in dialogue both among themselves and with Old Christians, and were open to the transmission and translation of ideas, images, and religious emotions. It will bring under close analysis the existence in sixteenth-century Iberia of cross-currents common to different religious groups, areas of local religiosity in which different religions overlapped, and vague or hybrid sorts of religiosity which indicate the blurring of clear ascriptions, categories, and borders including confusion, doubt, unbelief. Secondly, that the desire to eradicate difference within the majority society was always combined with the fear of infiltration and contamination, and that the disappearance of differences exacerbated the search for allegedly essential characteristics in those with Jewish and Muslim ancestors, who were generally seen by Christians as crypto-Jews or crypto-Muslims.

The project is at the same time concerned with the impact that forced conversion had on intellectual life (including the substitution of memory and re-invention of the past), and with the emergence of shifting identities and new religious attitudes. It will recalibrate the traumatic transition that led to the birth of the Inquisition and a mono-confessional Spain, and will convey the incredulous reaction of those who had to live through it, establishing what they read and what solutions they proposed

Both aspects of overlapping and redefinition will be viewed in connection with the increasingly intense polemical engagement that was taking place in Europe, and against the backdrop of the movements of proselytization, migration, and religious conflict stimulated by the Reformation and by the Ottoman invasions. This broader framework needs to be taken into account in order properly to assess the nature of many phenomena in late-medieval/early modern Iberian intellectual and social history, and which have been exclusively attributed to the existence of Jewish and Muslim minorities in the Peninsula. The broad framework includes the Iberian works of Islamic thought and anti-Christian polemic that were translated into European languages (Latin or vernacular), and used as a tool with which dissident elements reinforced a radical critique of Christianity and the Christian world. In the seventeenth century Islam was once more the vehicle for criticizing an intolerant Christianity, and in this process the Moriscos and their writings played a role that this project will explore.

The multi-faceted analysis of these phenomena will involve unearthing new archival material, most notably Inquisition trials, as well as numerous sixteenth- and seventeenth-century texts (both manuscripts and early modern editions) ranging from new translations of the Qur'an and other Jewish and Islamic classics (in Arabic and Hebrew) to a rich polemical literature (disputes, controversies, apologies, polemical hagiographies), as well as theological treatises on new converts, both in Latin and Spanish.