

Women's participation in politics, as well as in cultural, spiritual, and artistic development, originates from a concept that, although it varies in its basis of representation or the institutionalisation of its figures within the public sphere, remains universal. The third edition of "The City of Ladies" aims to explore the more remote corners of the medieval Christian West to understand the role and participation of women within the framework of political power. From the splendour of Byzantium and Jerusalem to the Scandinavian and Slavic realms, and not overlooking the admiration and exchange with al-Andalus in the Iberian Peninsula, examples drawn from these contexts will provide an opportunity to learn about influential women, the objects that constituted their daily lives, and the cross-cutting nature of some of the key hallmarks of female political identity in the Middle Ages.

Objectives:

- Understanding the complexities of medieval political culture beyond the Western context.
- Investigating the manifestations of female power across varied traditions and geographical territories.
- Appreciating the patterns of exchange between political systems through a female-focused lens.
- Valuing the contributions of royalty and aristocratic women in cultural, artistic, historiographical, and political domains.
- Recognising the significance of religious identity in the portrayal of medieval women.
- Gaining familiarity with the methodologies employed in Comparative and Global History.

Directed by

Diana Pelaz Flores & Miguel García-Fernández

Technical Secretariat

Carla Trincado Rodríguez

Organization

Vicerreitoría de Estudiantes, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela. Dpto. de Historia.

Research project: *La reginalidad iérica desde/hacia la Europa atlántica. Economías territoriales, escenarios curiales y geografías relacionales (ss. XII-XV)*

(Ref. PID2022-141727NB-C22)

Place and date

Classroom nº 13, Faculty of Geography&History, USC

June 22-26, 2026

Duration: 25 hours, 2 credits (A diploma will be awarded to those registered who demonstrate 80% course attendance)

Tuition: General rate 120 euros, Reduced rate for students 70 euro

Inscription: cursosdeveran@usc.gal

Registration period: May 14-June 12 2026

Cover image: Le secret, details de l'Histoire Naturelle, fol. 8v-2 (ca. 1480-1485). Gallica



UNIVERSIDADE
DE VERÁN 2026



The City of Ladies

Comparative perspectives on powerful women in the Middle Ages

Santiago de Compostela,
June 22-26, 2026

Faculty of Geography & History



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y Medievalismos



Monday, June 22

09.30 AM Opening and Presentation of Summer School

10.00 AM-12.00 PM What is Global History? Possibilities from the Middle Ages. Israel Sanmartín Barros (USC)

12.00-14.00 PM Studying Royal Women from a Comparative History Perspective: European Queens of the High Middle Ages. Anaïs Waag (University of Copenhagen)

14.00-16.00 PM Lunch Break

16.00-19.00 PM Female Power in Purple: Basilissas and Princesses in the Byzantine World. Pere González Alerm (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Tuesday, June 23

10.00 AM-12.00 PM Women in a Global Perspective from the Kingdom of Galicia. Miguel García- Fernández (IEGPS-CSIC)

12.00-14.00 PM Artistic and Spiritual Exchanges: Dissemination of Illuminated Manuscripts in the Hands of Royal Women of France and Navarre (14th Century). Guillermo Campo Yoldi (USC)

14.00-16.00 PM Lunch Break

16.00-19.00 PM The Construction of Female Royal Power in the Islamic West: The Nasrid and Marinid Sultanas. Bárbara Boloix Gallardo (Universidad de Granada)

Thursday, June 25

10.00 AM-12.00 PM Building the Government of the Holy Land: The Queens and Princesses of Jerusalem. Carla Trincado Rodríguez (USC)

12.00-14.00 PM The Women of Rus' and Their Networks: Between West and East. Cristian David López Ushakov (USC)

14.00-16.00 PM Lunch Break

16.00-19.00 PM Viking Women, Warrior Maidens, and Other Powerful Women in Scandinavia. Laia San José Beltrán (Independent Researcher & Scientific Communicator)

Friday, June 26

10.00 AM-12.00 PM Singularities and Affinities Among Medieval Female Royalty: Africa, Asia, and the Americas Diana Pelaz Flores (USC)

12.00-14.00 PM Female Mobility in an Interconnected Middle Ages. Miguel García-Fernández (IEGPS-CISC) & Diana Pelaz Flores (USC)