

CONFERENCE BEYOND EXCEPTIONALISM III

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors, whose contributions made this conference possible. We extend our sincere thanks to the Universitat Jaume I and its Department of History, The Ohio State University, The Haskins Society, The Social History Archive, IHA research group, Munarqas' project, the Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, the Agencia Estatal de Investigación, H.T.S.P.A., and the European Union (co-financed by the Unión Europea). In particular, we are thankful for their commitment to supporting graduate students and early career scholars, whose participation and research are vital to the continued vibrancy and future of our field.



Keynote Speakers
Laura L. Gathagan (SUNY)
Natasha Hodgson (NTU)
Patrik Pastrnak (UPOL)
Diana Pelaz Flores (USC)

Inscriptions



Organisers
Heather J. Tanner
Paula Del Val Vales
Lledó Ruiz Domingo
M. Inmaculada Rodríguez Moya

17-19 JUNE 2026

UNIVERSITAT
JAUME I

beyondexceptionalism@gmail.com



09:00-9:30 Registration and opening remarks
Welcoming all speakers and attendees to the conference.

*Room
HA1012CC*

**9:30-10:30. Keynote 1 - Embodiments of Power:
Reflections on Writing Elite Women's Lives**
Laura L. Gathagan (SUNY Cortland)
Chair: Heather J. Tanner (The Ohio State University)

*Room
HA1012CC,
in person*

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:30 Session 1

Session 1A | Dynastic Networks, Counsel and Diplomatic Learning

Chair: Paula Del Val Vales (independent scholar)

- **Charlotte Cartwright** (Christopher Newport University)
Matilda of Flanders in Eleventh-Century Norman and English Political Networks
- **Maria Barreto Dávila** (Universidade de Lisboa)
Relational Power, Dynastic Capital, and Network Rupture in the House of Braganza
- **Clara Kalogérakis*** (Independent scholar)
Learning Diplomacy without a School: Knowledge, Practice, and Socialisation of Princesses in Late Medieval Europe (c.1450-1530)

*Room
HA1012CC,
hybrid*

Session 1B | Legal Agency and Property

Chair: Manuela Santos Silva (Universidade de Lisboa)

- **Mona Hassan** (Duke University)
Formulating Islamic Law: The Juristic Acumen and Opinions of a Twelfth-Century Female Scholar
- **Vicente Martins** (Universidade de Lisboa)
The Marriage between Beatrice of Castille and King Afonso IV: An "Idealized" Union and Its Possible Consequences in Portuguese Law
- **Lesley McKay** (University of the Highlands and Islands)
Female legal agency in the North Atlantic: A Comparative Archival Study of Norway, Denmark, and Shetland, 1400-1500

*Room
HC0114FR,
in person*

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:30 Session 2

Session 2A | The Material Practice of Queenship: Objects, Gifts and Presence

Chair: Maria Barreto Dávila (Universidade de Lisboa)

- **Paula Del Val Vales** (Independent scholar)
Scale matters: A quantitative reassessment of Eleanor of Provence's gift-giving, 1240-1272
- **Pauline Ribera** (Sorbonne Université)
Practice of power or model of governance? Presence and materiality of the Infantas' spiritual and political authority (10th-13th centuries, León)
- **Carmen Poblete Trichilet*** (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha / Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Objects, Networks, and Authority: Non-Exceptional Forms of Female Power between Castile and the Mediterranean (late 15th-early 16th centuries)

*Room
HA1012CC,
hybrid*

Session 2B | Religious Authority, Enclosure and Liturgical Power

Chair: Tiffany Ziegler (Midwestern State University)

- **Audrey Covert** (Independent scholar)
Mother, Lady, Abbess: Female Authority in Medieval Religious Spaces
- **Julie Hotchin** (The Australian National University)
Negotiating female liturgical authority in late medieval Germany
- **Claire Buttery** (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)
The Paradoxical Power of Enclosure in The Life of Saint Audrey

*Room
HC0114FR,
in person*

15:30-16:00 BREAK

(*) signals an online speaker

16:00 - 17:30 Session 3

Session 3A | Lordship: An Unexceptional Activity for Royal Women

Organised by the Queen's Resources Network

Chair: Lledó Ruiz Domingo (Universitat Jaume I)

*Room
HA1012CC,
hybrid*

- **Elena (Ellie) Woodacre*** (University of Winchester) and **Katia Wright*** (Independent Scholar/Assistant Curator, AGC Museums Winchester)
Wessex: The Landed Power Base of Medieval English Queens
- **Harriet Guinn Jennings** (University of Winchester)
Mary of Woodstock: The Infanta of England
- **Manuela Santos Silva** (Universidade de Lisboa)
Isabella of Portugal, duchess of Burgundy (1430-1471): written evidence of her management of the duchy's patrimony and her own

Session 3B | Manuscripts and Devotional Culture

Chair: Charlotte Cartwright (Christopher Newport University)

*Room
HC0114FR,
hybrid*

- **Guillermo Campo Yoldi** (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
Books for Women? Books of Hours as a Repository of Shared Experiences
- **Nuria Ramón Marqués** and **Álvaro Herce Martín** (Universitat Politècnica de València)
Between Writing and Art: Illumination of the Manuscript Book in the Court of Maria of Castile
- **Kate Yarborough*** (Independent scholar)
Passionately Made: Addition and Influence in the Pavement-Pulleyn Hours, York Minster Library MS XVI.K.6

17:30 WINE RECEPTION at Jardí del Temps (Universitat Jaume I)9:30 - 10:30. **Keynote 2 - Gendering the Rites of Passage: Queenly Times of Marriage and Death**

Patrik Pastrnak (Palacky University)

Chair: Lledó Ruiz Domingo (Universitat Jaume I)

*Room
HA1012CC,
in person***10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 - 12:30 Session 4

Session 4A | Queenship, Governance and Political Authority

Chair: Maria Barreto Dávila (Universidade de Lisboa)

*Room
HA1012CC,
hybrid*

- **Vanessa King*** (Birkbeck, University of London)
Queenship and the Politics of Borderlands in Early Mercia?
- **María Monerris Molina** (Universidad de Alicante)
Counsellor in spite of the distance: María de Castilla's epistolary advice to her husband, King Alfonso V of Aragon (1440-1450)
- **Juan José Pizarroso Serrano*** (Universidad de Alicante)
Female Agency and the Politics of Affect in the Foundational Narratives of Islamic Expansion

Session 4B | Material Culture, Female Bodies and the Performance of Authority

Chair: Elena Paulino Montero (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

*Room
HC0114FR,
in person*

- **Marta Redondo de Fuenmayor** (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)
The Political Afterlife: Women's Bodies as Instruments of Legitimacy in Dynastic Conflicts
- **Neus Serra Vives** (Universitat de les Illes Balears)
Maria of Castile: Material Culture and Medical Practices of a Medieval Queen
- **Natalia Muñoz-Rojas** (Courtauld Institute of Art)
Women's Networks of Piety and Power in Post Conquest Granada: artistic patronage in San Jose

12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH

DAY 2: 18 JUNE 2026

14:00 - 15:30 Session 5

Session 5A | Elite Women and Governance

Chair: Lledó Ruiz Domingo (Universitat Jaume I)

Room
HA1012CC,
hybrid

- **Heather J. Tanner** (The Ohio State University)
Two Countesses, One County: Dowager and Heiress in the Governance of Medieval Flanders
- **Erika Graham-Goering** (University of Oslo)
Why divide fiefs among daughters?
- **António Marques*** (University of Porto)
The Pereira Women and Their Contribution to their Family's Social Mobility

Session 5B | Art, Architecture and Patronage

Chair: Patrik Pastrnak (Palacky University)

Room
HC0114FR,
hybrid

- **Emma Berger** (University of Amsterdam & Culturespaces)
Italian Renaissance Countesses and Art
- **Katerina Kiltzanidou*** (Democritus University of Thrace)
Wars and Devotion: Female Agency in Church Patronage during the Late Medieval and Early Modern Periods in Macedonia
- **Natia Natsvlishvili*** (George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation)
Architectural Patronage and Female Self-Representation in Medieval Georgia

15:30 - 16:00 BREAK

16:00 - 17:30 Session 6

Session 6A | Corporate Monarchy

Chair: Anais Waag (University of Copenhagen)

Room
HA1012CC,
TBD

- **Charles Insley** (University of Manchester)
Through the Eyes of the Spindle Half: an alternative history of tenth century England
- **Lledó Ruiz Domingo** (Universitat Jaume I)
Negotiating Co-Rulership in Medieval Iberia: The Dialectics of Female Authority in the Fourteenth-Century Crown of Aragon
- **Carla Trincado Rodríguez** (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
Beyond infantas: Rethinking the Queenly Identity in the 12th-Century León

Session 6B | Frontiers, Borderlands and Territorial Authority

Chair: Mona Hassan (Duke University)

Room
HC0114FR,
hybrid

- **Ramón Santonja Alarcón*** (UNED / Universidad de Alicante)
Beyond the Frontier: Female Agency and the Persistence of Late Medieval Land Tenure Models in the Kingdom of Granada (1572-1615)
- **Madeleine Duperouzel** (University of Oxford)
'For I know such properties': Analysing strategies of rural efficiency, risk management, and resilience in women's documents from Egypt (4th-5th centuries AD)
- **Juan González Díaz** (Universidad de Murcia)
Behind the Walls: Women in a Frontier City (Murcia, 1485-1495)

20:00 CONFERENCE DINNER at Plan B Restaurante

DAY 3: 19 JUNE 2026

9:30 - 10:30. Keynote 3 - Women's Roles in Shaping the Crusades: Strategies, Networks and Finance *Room HA1012CC, hybrid*

Natasha Hodgson (Nottingham Trent University)

Chair: Paula Del Val Vales (Independent scholar)

10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 Session 7

Session 7A | Queen's Role in Co-rulership in 13th-14th-century France *Room HA1012CC, in person*

Chair: Laura Gathagan (SUNY Cortland)

- **Sonya Nikiforova** (University of Lincoln)
Envisioning Queenship in Times of Turbulence: The Transformation of Didactic Writing on Queen's Role in Rulership in 13th-14th century France
- **Louise Gay** (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord)
To Implore Heaven's Assistance: Queens' Intercession for Warring Kings (13th-14th centuries)
- **Anaïs Waag** (University of Copenhagen)
Marguerite of Provence as Queen of France: Exploring Capetian Co-Rulership in the Reign of Louis IX

Session 7B | Crusading, Conflict and Martial Imaginaries

Chair: Natasha Hodgson (Nottingham Trent University)

- **Katie Vernon** (University of York)*
The Armiferous Women of Middle English Romance
- **Aisling Walsh** (University College Dublin)
Expectations of Women as Crusaders: A Case Study of Alix de Montfort and the Albigensian Crusade
- **Luis Galan Campos** (Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibersitatea)
Comunes e suficientes. Aristocratic women in feuds in the kingdom of Valencia (14th-15th century)

12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30 Session 8

Session 8A | Cartography of Elite's Women's Patrimony in Late Medieval Castile *Room HA1012CC, in person*

Chair: Andrea Pagès Poyatos (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid/ Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

- **Andrea Sánchez-Guijaldo** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
María de Molina and the Politics of Double Lineage: Territory and Power in Medieval Castile
- **Loreto Muñoz Conejo** (Universidad de Castilla la Mancha)
Women's Double Belonging and the Grammar of Marriage Strategies in Late Medieval Castile: Lineages, Patrimony, and Power (1450-1530)
- **Luis Ramírez Álvarez** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
The Women of the Estúñiga Lineage and their Political Power

Session 8B | Medicine, Childbirth and the Female Body *Room HC0114FR, hybrid*

Chair: Heather J. Tanner (The Ohio State University)

- **Ignacio Nebot Segarra** (Universitat de Lleida)
The Queen and the Plague: Queenship and Medicine in the Late Medieval Crown of Aragon
- **Lucía Belén Gómez*** (CONICET)
Midwives, Childbirths, and Queen-Consorts in Late Medieval Iberia: A Comparative Study (Fourteenth-Fifteenth Centuries)
- **Tiffany Ziegler** (Midwestern State University)
Matriarchal Independence: A Causality of Modernism

15:30 - 16:00 BREAK

16:00 - 17:00 Keynote 4 - Rethinking Queenship in Medieval Iberia

Diana Pelaz Flores (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) *Room HC0114FR, in person*

Chair: María Inmaculada Rodríguez Moya (Universitat Jaume I)

17:00-17:30 Closing remarks *Room HC0114FR*