



# Polyphonic Communities: Ways of Belonging in the Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World

**\*\*Relaunched for 28-29 January 2021, 4-7.30pm GMT (via Zoom)\*\***

The notion of community has been a key question for scholars of many disciplines seeking to understand the Iberian past, from questioning the trope of multi-faith convivencia in medieval Spain to analysing the richly complex and diverse global empires of early modernity. In 1996, David Nirenberg insisted on the importance of violence in the formation of communities, initiating a scholarly conversation about the complex and often fiercely contested nature of social aggregation in the context of religious, racial and ethnic disputes. Since then, the academic discussion has moved beyond violence to consider the role of cooperation, mutual dependence, and belonging in Iberian society, as well as the importance of recovering multiple perspectives on the meaning of community.

By bringing together scholars from a range of disciplines, this conference offers an integrated interdisciplinary approach to challenge the way we think about community in the Iberian world. Our aim is not only to rethink the different meanings of belonging in the medieval Mediterranean and beyond, but also how scholars reconstruct and identify communities in the past. The committee welcomes submissions for papers related to notions of community and belonging in the medieval and early-modern Iberian world, broadly construed. Topics of particular interest might include, but are not limited to:

- Identity, Belonging, and the Other
  - Exclusion and isolation
- History and memory in identity construction
  - Race, ethnicity, and naturaleza
- Schools of thought, intellectual communities, and the production of knowledge
  - Gender and status
- Public institutions, el pueblo and vox populi
- Economic communities, mercantile networks and diplomatic connections
- National and trans-national identities in peninsular and colonial contexts

## CALL FOR PAPERS

To submit a proposal, please send an abstract (up to 250 words) for a 15 minute paper, and a brief biographical statement to [Iberian@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Iberian@history.ox.ac.uk) no later than 11th December 2020 (12:00 GMT).

For more information please see the website:

<https://iberianhistory.web.ox.ac.uk/>