



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2021
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

NOVA University Lisbon | School of Social Sciences and Humanities
CHAM

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Economies, Societies and Mercantile Cultures
http://www.cham.fcsh.unl.pt/li_apresenta.aspx?linha=7

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Pablo Sánchez León
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SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

PhD in Early Modern History (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), I was trained in historical sociology, and specialized in social conflicts in Spain in comparative perspective. My overall interests deal with the sources of individual and collective action in historical contexts, which I analyse through a range of perspectives from conceptual history and intellectual history to theories of identity and of emotions. I have been Visiting Fellow at the Center for Social Theory and Comparative History (UCLA) and Visiting Professor at Sabanci University (Istanbul) and Université Bordeaux-Montaigne. I have been teaching history of social movements at Universidad Complutense de Madrid but mainly work as a researcher at University of the Basque Country. In the last years I have been working on the language of modern citizenship in Spain and on concepts and experiences of time. My current topics of interest are the rise of modern individualism and the overcoming of imperial decadence in Spain and Portugal in comparative global perspective. I'm also involved in projects on the Gran narratives in Spanish history.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- “Comunidad, tiempo, (im)política. La concepción de la nación española en la ilustración” [Community, time, the (im)political: the conception of the Spanish nation in the Enlightenment]. In *Comunidad. Perspectivas desde la historia conceptual* [Community. Perspectives from conceptual history], edited by Gabriel Entin. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Prometeo, 2022 (forthcoming).
- (with Andrea Slemian). “Corporaciones, gremios y consulados, 1715-1808” [Corporations, guilds, and merchant guilds, 1715-1808]. In *Tradición y Constitución, 1715-1812* [Tradition and Constitution, 1715-1812], edited by Carlos Garriga; Jesús Vallejo. Madrid, Spain: Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, 2021 (forthcoming).
- “Orígenes modernos. El progreso como restauración en la forja de una nación española, siglo XVIII” [Modern origins: Progress as restoration in the forging of a Spanish nation, XVIII century]. In *Las formas del origen. Una puerta sin retorno al laberinto de las génesis* [The forms of origin. A door with no return to the labyrinth of genesis], edited by Ángel Díaz de Rada, Madrid: Trotta, 2021: 273-298.
- “Decadencia y regeneración. La temporalidad en los conceptos fundamentales de la modernidad española”. In J. Fernández Sebastián and G. Capellán de Miguel (eds.), *Conceptos políticos, tiempo e*



historia. Nuevos enfoques en historia conceptual, Santander: Universidad de Cantabria/McGraw-Hill, 2011: 271-300.

- "Ordenar la civilización. Semántica del concepto de policía en la Ilustración española". *Política y Sociedad* 42(3), 2005: 139-156.

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

FROM DECAYED EMPIRES TO TRADING NATIONS: THE CULTURE OF COMMERCE AND THE FRAMEWORK OF CITIZENSHIP IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, 1670s-1820s

The historical trajectories of Portugal and Spain in the early modern period have two features in common: their experience, throughout the 17th century, as declining imperial powers; and their parallel struggle, in the 18th century, with various Northern European empires that incorporated commerce as a rising source of wealth and hegemony. The forging of Portugal and Spain as 'nations' was shaped by these shared processes.

Covering from the 1670s to the 1820s, this project aims at examining how Portugal and Spain strove to overcome decadence. It will give centre stage to the culture of commerce extending in that period. Its main hypothesis is that the "science of commerce" deeply impacted on three main spheres of collective life: the self and its representations; the social order and its ranking; and the reshaping of the community as a 'nation'. This study will explore the extent to which changes in these spheres influenced the rise of the modern individual, of capitalist society and of citizenship.

The survey will particularly focus on how merchants, both as individuals and as part of their corporations, were re-signified as epitomes of the new patriotic values referring to trade. Developed in the wake of the Enlightened reforms, this emerging appreciation underscored the benefits of commerce over civilization and public happiness; yet, under changing political contexts, it also triggered path breaking struggles for citizenship.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)