

Research Workshop

Black Iberia. Sources for a New Afroiberian
Social and Cultural History

5-6 July 2022

University of Oxford

Convenor

Dr Diana Berruezo-Sánchez

Room 2-Taylor Institution- St Giles' OX1 3NA Oxford



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5 July 2022

9.30-10.00 Arrival of delegates.

10-10.15 Opening remarks

10.15-11.15 Elizabeth Wright (U Georgia), 'Unpacking an Iberian Marriage Plot: The Guilty Secrets Behind King João II's Spanish Match (1490)'

11.15-11.30 Break

11.30-12.00 Alberto del Campo (U Pablo de Olavide), 'La animalización del negro en el maltrato verbal. Humillación, domesticación y rebeldía'

12.00 -12.30 Reyes Lázaro (Smith College), 'Teaching *El entremés de los negros* in the US'

12.45-1.30 LUNCH AT BALLIOL COLLEGE

2.30-3.00 Miguel Ángel Rosales (U Pablo de Olavide), 'On Other Sources: Flamenco's Black Traces'

3.00-3.30 Josep Pujol i Coll (ESMUC) 'Co-fradías, sociabilidad y vida cotidiana en tres villancicos 'de negro''

3.30-4.00 Andrea Rueda (U Pablo de Olavide), 'Música y negritud en el archivo de Gibraleón: los límites de la libertad'

4.00-5.00 Discussion: collective volume

7.30 DINNER AT KINGS' ARMS
(40 Holywell St, Oxford OX1 3SP)

6 July 2022

10-10.30 Chloe Ireton (UCL), 'Felipa y Antonio, esclavitud y libertad en Sevilla XVI-XVII'

10.30-11.00 Manuel Olmedo Gobante (U Arkansas), 'Minoritarian Counter Story-telling as Theory and Practice to Talk About Spain's Racial History'

11-11.15 Break

11.15-11.45 Cornesha Tweede (U Oregon), 'Conjuring Black Woman's Ancient Power in Early Modern Iberian Literature'

11.45-12.15 Eduardo Corona Pérez (U Mina Gerais), '¿Es lo mismo ser "libre" o "libre de cautiverio" que nacer libre? Aquello que las fuentes quieren decir sobre la libertad desde la Sevilla de los siglos XVI-XVII'

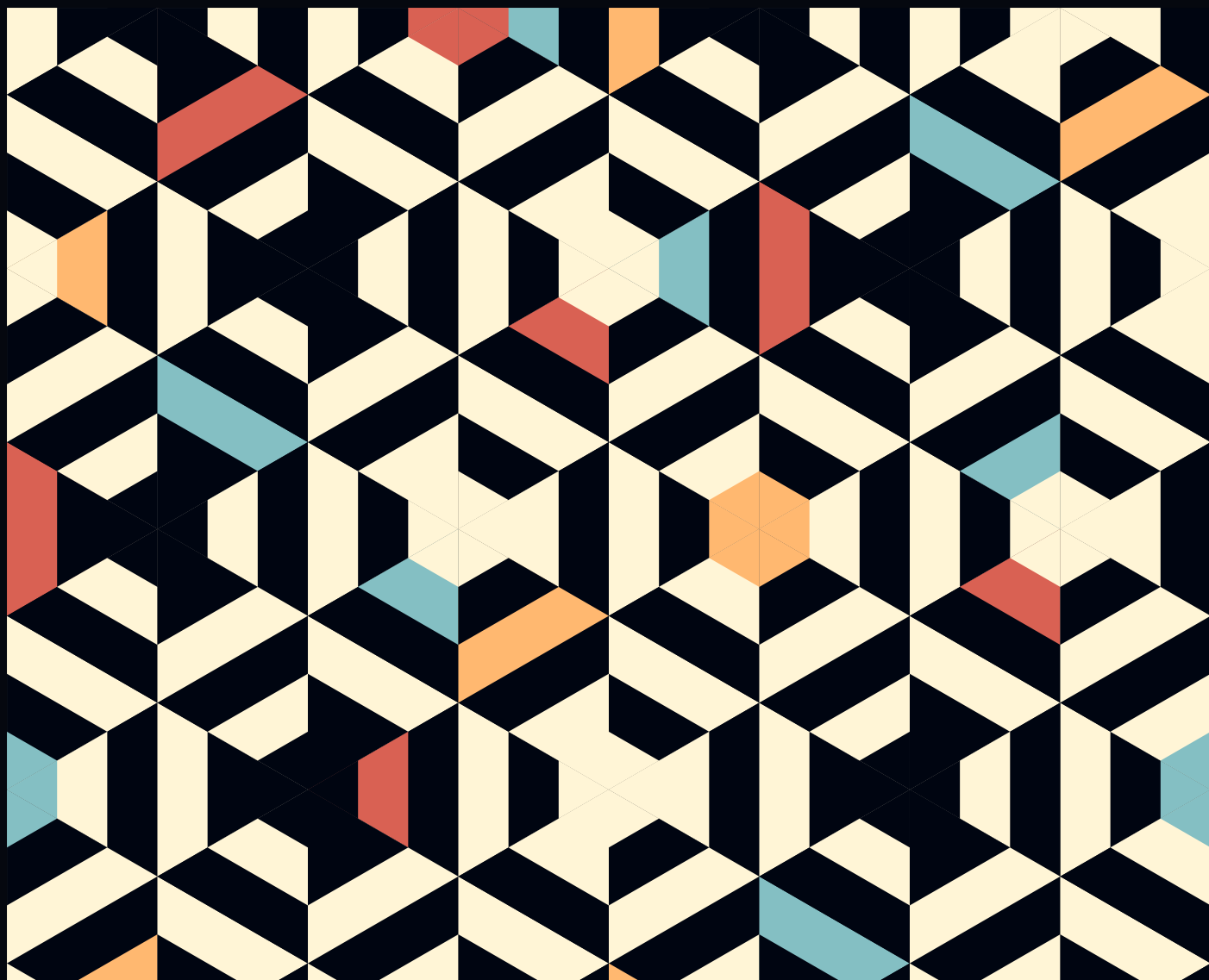
12.45-1.30 LUNCH AT BALLIOL COLLEGE

2.30-3.00 Diana Berruezo-Sánchez (U Oxford/U Barcelona), 'La negra lectora y la alfabetización negra'

3.00-3.30 Baltasar Fra Molinero (Bates College), '"A mis padres los trajeron negros esclavos de Guinea': Catalina Déniz, acusada de brujería por la Inquisición de las Islas Canarias en 1605"

3.30-4.30 Collective closing remarks

7.30 DINNER AT BRASSERIE BLANC
(71-72 Walton St, Oxford OX2 6AG)



Speakers

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Summary

Black Iberia will explore social and cultural practices of black Africans in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Iberia through a diverse set of primary texts and sources, such as literary representations and historical records. It will gather international scholars from various disciplines based in the US, the UK, Spain, and Brazil and promote new understandings of Afroiberian experiences in early modern Iberia. The workshop will foster interdisciplinary discussions about sources engaging with the lives and experiences of black Africans and their cultural representations.

Speakers (in order of appearance)

Elizabeth R. Wright (University of Georgia)

Elizabeth R. Wright (PhD John Hopkins University) is a Distinguished Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Georgia. She has had several visiting positions in the US, Spain and France. Currently, She is the Editor of the *Bulletin of the Comediantes* and is working on her next monograph, *Stages of Servitude in Early Modern Iberia*, which scrutinizes the links between two foundational modern enterprises—the Atlantic slave trade and a professional theater—as they took shape in early modern Portugal and Spain. Prof Wright has published extensively on early modern Spanish literature, particularly on Juan Latino, including a monograph *The Epic of Juan Latino: Dilemmas of Race and Religion in Renaissance Spain* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016), a co-edited anthology of texts, *The Battle of Lepanto* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014); a peer-reviewed article “Juan Latino. ‘Del advenimiento de una era de paz’ (De natali serenissimi).”, *Pecia Complutense*, 2019, vol. 16, no. 31, pp. 1-14; and a research note, “Juan Latino, “On the Birth of Untroubled Times,” in *Open Iberia/America Teaching Anthology*. She has also worked on Afroiberian diasporic experiences, contributing a book chapter on the black African diaspora, “Fragmentary Facts, Muted Voices: Memories of the First Atlantic Slave Voyage,” in *Trajectories of Empire: Transhispanic Dialogues on the African Diaspora*, ed. Jerome Branche (Vanderbilt University Press, forthcoming). Prior to this, she worked on Lope de Vega, contributing a monograph, *Pilgrimage to Patronage: Lope de Vega and the Court of Philip III, 1598-1621* (Lewisburg, Bucknell University Press, 2001), and an edition of *Los ramilletes de Madrid* (Madrid, Gredos, 2012).

Webpage at the University of Georgia: [Elizabeth R. Wright](#)



Alberto del Campo Tejedor (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Alberto del Campo Tejedor is Full Professor at the University Pablo de Olavide. He holds three BAs (in Law, German Studies, and Social Anthropology), and a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Seville. His interdisciplinary lines of research combine Ethnographic Studies with Anthropology, History, Literature and Law, and explore oral literatures, popular music, religion, ethnicity and sexualities, on which he has published extensively. His latest publications include *Historia de la Navidad. El nacimiento del goce festivo en el cristianismo* (2020), *El Rito y la Risa. Ensayos sobre la burla en la religión cristiana* (2020) and *Pregones y Flamenco. El cante en los vendedores ambulantes andaluces* (2021, with Rafael Cáceres Feria), as well as the collective volume *Pensar la pandemia: Más allá de la sanidad y la economía* (2021). He has conducted fieldwork in Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Cameroon, and Andalucía, as well as research stays in Switzerland, the US and Ecuador. He has lately focused on the Black Afroiberian legacies in Spain, particularly in the region of Andalucía, in his book *La infame fama del andaluz. Páginas para una historia de los caracteres nacionales* (2020).

Página Web Universidad Pablo de Olavide: [Alberto del Campo Tejedor](#)

Reyes Lázaro (Smith College)

Reyes Lázaro is Assistant Professor at Smith College (US) where she teaches the self-design seminar for undergraduate studies 'Black Spain'. Dr Lázaro has extensive research on comparative literature and so-called peripheral literature of the Iberian Peninsula, and she is now preparing a book chapter on immigrants as authors in Spanish literature and film. Lázaro has published on Spanish fiction writers of the 20th century, such as Ramón del Valle Inclán, Luis Martín-Santos, Blanca de los Ríos, Azorín, Rosa Chacel and Bernardo Atxaga. She is working on a book, "Don Juan and the Spanish National Conquest," in which she relates the many rewritings of Don Juan in Spain in the 20th century to competing nationalisms of the Iberian Peninsula and the gender ideologies in which they are rooted.

Webpage at Smith College: [Reyes Lázaro](#)

Miguel Ángel Rosales (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Miguel Ángel Rosales is a PhD candidate at Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville. His doctoral research focuses on the communities of Black African descent in today's Spain. These communities allow for a clear link between past and present diasporic experiences, as well as examining the erased and forgotten black traces in the Afro-Spanish oral traditions. Rosales has contributed two peer-reviewed articles on these issues, 'In the



tracks of the unthinkable', *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, South Africa, 2019 and 'Con los Ojos Cerrados', *El Canon, Revista de Arte Flamenco*, 5 (2019), pp. 80-85. He read Anthropology and Forest Engineering, as well as studying Music in Grandaa and Cinema in Cuba (EICTV). He has produced the award-winning documentary film *Gurumbé. Canciones de tu memoria negra* on the musical legacy of the Black Afroiberian diaspora.

Website at Docma: [Miguel Ángel Rosales](#)

Josep Pujol i Coll (Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya)

Josep Pujol i Coll is a Lecturer at Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya (ESMUC) in Barcelona. His interdisciplinary research interests include the links between music, texts and culture in both the seventeenth Century and the twentieth Century. His PhD, *Els vilancets "de negre" al segle XVII* (2016) <https://hdl.handle.net/10803/383042> explored villancicos de negros, a successful literary and musical genre with black characters in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This line of research has resulted in a number of publications, such as 'Den lugar a los negrillós: Villancicos y danzas "de negro" en la España del siglo XVII', *Anuario Musical*, 76 (2021), pp. 51-71; «Vilancets "de negre" catalans del segle XVII», *Revista catalana de musicologia*, 11, (2018), pp. 133-43; and «Tres vilancets "de negre" gironins», in *Miscel·lània en honor de Josep M. Marquès*, edited by Pep Vila and Narcís Figueras (Girona: Patronat Francesc Eiximenis de la Diputació de Girona i Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat, 2010), pp. 422-436.

Academia. edu: [Josep Pujol i Coll](#);

Website at ESMUC: [Josep Pujol i Coll](#).

Andrea Rueda (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Andrea Rueda Herrera is a fully funded PhD candidate at University Pablo de Olavide in Seville where she studies cultural encounters in the formation of cultural identities in Spain. She holds a BA in Humanities, a BA in Translation and Interpreting (English and German) and an MSt in *Sciences of Religions: History and Society* from the University Pablo de Olavide, as well as an MSt in *Anthropolgy: Cultural Diversity, Heritage and Development* from the University of Seville. Her latest publications include "Identidad, estigma y libertad religiosa. El islam disidente en Badajoz", *Almenara. Revista Extremeña de Ciencias Sociales*, 14-4 (2022), pp. 75-88.

Webpage at Academia.edu: [Andrea Rueda](#)



Chloe Ireton (University College London)

Chloe Ireton is a Lecturer at University College London at the Department of History of Iberia and the Iberian World 1500-1800, and works of race, slavery, freedom, and empire in the early Southern Atlantic world. Chloe completed her PhD in History at the University of Texas at Austin, and has held institutional affiliations with universities and research centres in Colombia, Mexico, and Spain, as well as residence fellowships at the John Carter Brown Library and the Huntington Library in the US. She is currently working on her monograph, *Intellectual History from Below: Slavery & Freedom in the Early Iberian Atlantic*, exploring how free and enslaved Black men and women in the early Atlantic world conceptualized two strands of political thought – freedom and slavery. Her latest publications include “L’imaginaire éthiopien dans le premier monde hispanique: esclavage et baptême dans le Catéchisme évangélique de Sandoval,” *Revue d’Histoire Moderne & Contemporaine*, 68-2 (2021), pp. 102-128; the award winning article “Black Africans’ Freedom Litigation Suits, African Christianity, and debates over Just War and Just Slavery in the Early Spanish Empire,” *Renaissance Quarterly*, 73-4 (2020), pp. 1277-1319; “They Are Blacks of the Caste of Black Christians: Old Christian Black Blood in the Sixteenth- and Early Seventeenth-Century Iberian Atlantic,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 97-4 (2017), pp. 579-612; and the book chapter “Margarita de Sossa, Sixteenth-Century Puebla de los Ángeles, New Spain (Mexico)” published in *As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Black Women and Emancipation in the Americas*, edited by Erica L. Ball, Tatiana Seijas, and Terri L. Snyder (Cambridge University Press, 2020), pp. 27-42.

Webpage at UCL: [Chloe Ireton](#)

Manuel Olmedo Gobante (University of Arkansas)

Manuel Olmedo Gobante is Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas. He holds a PhD and MA in Hispanic and Lusophone-Brazilian Studies from the University of Chicago, and a BA in Spanish Philology from the University of Seville. His research interests center on the history of Hispanic martial arts, soldierly literature, and Afro-Hispanic culture. In particular, Dr Gobante has studied the presence of Black men in early modern Spanish fencing treatises (“El mucho número que hay dellos’: El valiente negro en Flandes y los esgrimistas afrohispanos de Grandezas de la espada,” *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, 70-2 (2018), pp. 67-91) and how martial arts discourses informed the literary representation of Blacks in early modern Spain (“In Search of the Black Fencer: Race and Martial Arts Discourse in Early Modern Iberia,” *Empire and its Aftermath: Transatlantic Dialogues on Diaspora*, edited by Jerome Branche, Vanderbilt University Press, In press). With Prof Fra Molinero and Nelson López, he is finalizing the first critical bilingual edition of *El valiente negro en Flandes* (*The Valiant Black Man in Flanders*,



Liverpool University Press). Dr Olmedo Gobante has recently presented his work in progress “How to Edit Race: Ecdotal, Linguistic and Ethical Challenges of habla de negros” at the *Global Echoes: The Worlds of Early Modern Spanish Poetry* conference in Cambridge (2022) and envisions a book-project on Black martial agency and heroism in early modern Spanish theatre through the optics of Critical Race Theory and Afrofuturism.

Academia.edu: [Manuel Olmedo Gobante](#)

Cornesha Tweede (University of Oregon)

Cornesha Tweede has recently completed her PhD in Romance Languages and African Studies at the University of Oregon where she has specialized in Lusophone African and Spanish Literature. Her thesis explores Blackness, race, gender, postcoloniality, and the place of Africa in early modern cultural studies. Her research interests invite us to embrace the legacy of Blackness on the Iberian Peninsula, and to address the ways in which it has been suppressed within conventional, canonical scholarship, criticism, and pedagogy of the early modern period. Her publications include, “Micomicona’s positionality. The Black African Woman Beyond the Abject”, *Postcolonialities*, 8-1 (2021). She has also presented her work in progress “The Black Body in abjection and love: Luís Vaz de Camões and Luiz Gonzaga Pinto da Gama” at the *Global Echoes: The Worlds of Early Modern Spanish Poetry* conference in Cambridge (2022).

Website at University of Oregon: [Cornesha Tweede](#)

Eduardo Corona Pérez (University F. Mina Gerais/ Universidad de Sevilla)

Dr Corona is a Margarita Salas Research Fellow at the University of Seville and post-doctoral research visiting fellow at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. He holds a PhD in History (2021), an MSt in Modern History (2019) and a BA in History (2018) from the University of Seville. Dr Corona’s lines of research focus on slavery, the trafficking of enslaved people and the practices of cultural encounters in the Iberian Atlantic of the sixteenth and seventeenth Centuries. His latest publications include “Mercado de esclavos y población esclava en La Puebla del Río (ca. 1550-1650)”, *El Sabio Alfonso. Folios para el debate cultural*, 2 (2022), pp. 23-29; “Aproximación a la mortalidad infantil de los esclavos en Sevilla (1620-1650)”, *Revista de Demografía Histórica-Journal of Iberoamerican Population Studies*, 38-2 (2020), pp. 83-105; and “El bautismo de esclavos adultos y el mercado de importación de esclavos en Sevilla durante los siglos XVI-XVII: una relación a considerar”, in *La esclavitud en el sur de la península ibérica. Siglos XV al XVII. Demografía e historia social*, edited by Rafael M. Pérez García & Manuel F. Fernández Chaves (Madrid: Catarata, 2021), pp. 171-209.

Academia.edu: [Eduardo Corona Pérez](#)



Diana Berruezo-Sánchez (University of Oxford)

Dr Diana Berruezo-Sánchez is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and a Ramón y Cajal Research Fellow at Universitat de Barcelona. She is currently working on her next monograph, *The Afro-Hispanic Literary Legacy in Early Modern Spain*, where she explores the cultural agency of black women and men and the way their presence contributed collectively and anonymously to a myriad of literary texts of the period. Also, she is crafting an article on the silenced representations of black poets in early modern Spain and has published a peer-review article on poetic black voices ‘«Negro poeta debió de ser el que tan negro romance hizo»: ¿poetas negros en el Siglo de Oro?’, *Hipogrifo. Revista de literatura y cultura del Siglo de Oro*, 9.1 (2021), pp. 131-142. Dr Berruezo-Sánchez has secured funding from the John Fell Fund to organize research workshops with an interdisciplinary group of scholars working on the African Diaspora, [From Presence to Action: Black African’s Agency in Early Modern Spain \(2020\)](#). In parallel, she is co-leading with Prof Elena Lombardi (Balliol College) a research project on invisibilities, [Hiding in Plain Sight: The construction of invisibility](#), funded by the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute, and brings together scholars of various disciplines, such as Mathematics, Philosophy, Astronomy, Literature, and Engineering, to discuss what is the invisible in different academic fields.

Academia.edu: [Diana Berruezo-Sánchez](#); University of Oxford: [Diana Berruezo-Sánchez](#); University of Barcelona: [Diana Berruezo-Sánchez](#)

Baltasar Fra Molinero (Bates College)

Baltasar Fra Molinero is Full Professor at Bates College. His PhD at Indiana University on the literary representations of Blacks led to the pioneering book *La imagen de los negros en el teatro del Siglo de Oro* (Madrid: Siglo XXI, 1995). His research interests have since explored the image and representation of the African Diaspora and Blackness, on which he has published extensively. His latest publications include the critical edition Sor Teresa Chicaba’s hagiography, *Black Bride of Christ: Chicaba, An African Nun in Eighteenth-Century Spain* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2018 with Prof Sue E. Houchins); the poetic work of Raquel Ilomb del Pozo Epita, *Ceiba II: Poesía inedita* (Madrid, Verbum 2014 with Prof Benita Sampedro); a special Issue in *Afro-Hispanic Review* (2009) on the literary and cultural production of Equatorial Guinea; and the collection of essays “Don Quijote and His Racial Others” in *Annals of Scholarship* (2010). With Manuel Olmedo Gobante and Nelson López, he is working on the bilingual edition of *El valiente negro en Flandes* (*The Valiant Black Man in Flanders*, Liverpool University Press).

Website at Bates College: [Baltasar Fra Molinero](#); Personal Website: [Baltasar Fra Molinero](#)