



# EMPIRE OF ROLE MODELS?

## CHAMPIONING AND CHALLENGING GLOBAL IDEALS IN THE EARLY MODERN IBERIAN WORLDS

Organized by Maria Vittoria Spissu (DAR, UNIBO)

Sponsored by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COMCON Project  
and DAMSLab UNIBO

With the support of the Center for Renaissance Studies – The Newberry Library,  
Chicago and the Center for Iberian Historical Studies – Saint Louis University

This symposium addresses the issue of global connections by focusing on the circulations of world views, distributed agency, the transformation of models, transcultural/transformational objects, nomadic ideals, utopian objects promising salvation, objects embodying conflicts or aspiring to heal division, weaponized objects, and images visualizing redemption, negotiation or idealized pacification.

It focuses on the globalizing networks that strove toward universal unity and the synergy generated by the imperial colonial system of sovereignty, hegemony, hierarchy, and local authorities. It explores role models, heroes, moralizing values, and normative virtues within Global Catholicism while embracing the rhizomatic/polyphonic reality that resisted controlling and unifying ambitions.

The symposium examines constellations of images and devotional cults, connected histories, the mobilization of knowledge and ideologies, the fabrication of ideas and narratives, and the imposition or contestation of ideals and social emotions within the Habsburg Empire in Europe, the Iberian Americas, Africa, and Asia during the Global Renaissance and the Global Baroque.

It considers ideas and objects representative of multiple places and communities, but it also aims to give a voice to images and stories that endeavored to escape such a totalizing perspective. This symposium investigates works and actions embedded within collective ideals while delving into objects and encounters/clashes that reveal distance and closeness, sharing and erasure, possession and resistance.

19 JUNE 2025, 10:30–17:30

20 JUNE 2025, 9:15–12:40

UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DELLE ARTI  
PALAZZO MARESCOTTI

VIA BARBERIA 4  
SALONE MARESCOTTI

**ComCon**  
Communities of Concord



Funded by  
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European  
Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme  
under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
grant agreement No 101028785



Global Empires  
Artistic Mobilities  
Connected Histories



THE NEWBERRY



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
—  
CENTER FOR IBERIAN  
HISTORICAL STUDIES



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DIPARTIMENTO  
DELLE ARTI

**DAMSLAB**

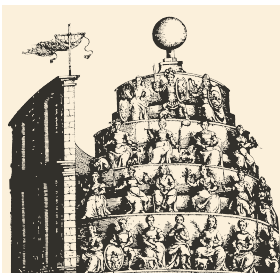




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# D A M S L A B



## ComCon

Communities of Concord:  
Building Contentment and Belonging  
through Emotional Images  
in Early Modern Europe and Beyond



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19-20 JUNE 2025

Università di Bologna

Dipartimento delle Arti, Palazzo Marescotti

Via Barberia 4, Salone Marescotti

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 19, SALONE MARESCOTTI

**10:40–11:00** | *Welcome & Opening Address*

**Maria Vittoria Spissu, Department of the Arts, University of Bologna**

Marian Guerilla, Mines of Hearts, Giant Rhizomes, and Rivers of Idealized Pacification: 'A Brave New World'

**Session 1** *Pioneering ~ Reframing ~ Envisioning*

Chair: Lia Markey, Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, Chicago

**11:00–11:20** | **Alessandra Russo, Columbia University, New York**

Ars in a *Novus Orbis*: Inceptions of a Newly Found Term

**11:20–11:40** | **Shannah Rose, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University | American Academy in Rome**

Lorenzo Pignoria and the Remediation of Mexican Deities in Early Modern Rome

**11:40–12:00** | **Vanessa A. Portugal, Trinity College Dublin**

A Cosmological Model from the New World. Reflections from Saint Augustin in the *Tierra Caliente* of Michoacán

**12:00–12:20** | Q&A

**12:30–14:10** | *Lunch*

**Session 2** *Performing ~ Unfolding ~ Fabricating*

Chair: Alessandra Russo, Columbia University, New York

**14:20–14:40** | **Marta Albalá Pelegrín, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona**

Empire on Display: Staging Iberian Monarchs in Papal Rome

**14:40–15:00** | **Lia Markey, Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, Chicago**

Urbano Monte's World Map in Spanish Milan: Materiality, Circularity, and Imagery

**15:00–15:20** | **José Joaquín Araneda Riquelme, Università Roma Tre**

Colonial Objects on Board! Augustinian Agents and Political Communication from the Andes to Rome and Madrid (1640–1700)

**15:20–15:40** | Q&A

**15:40–16:00** | *Break*

**Session 3** *Championing ~ Enlightening ~ Striving*

Chair: Christine Göttler, Universität Bern

**16:00–16:20** | **Raphaële Preisinger, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich**

Constructing Missionary Heroism: The Martyrs of Japan in a Transcontinental Perspective

**16:20–16:40** | **Antonin Liatard, Université Paris Nanterre**

Spotless Mirror and Jesuit Aesthetic Models between Spanish Netherlands and Latin America

**16:40–17:00** | **Fernando Loffredo, Stony Brook University, New York**

Global Eruptions: New Devotions and the Ecologies of Fear across the Spanish Empire

**17:00–17:20** | Q&A

## FRIDAY, JUNE 20, SALONE MARESCOTTI

**Session 4** *Melting ~ Refounding ~ Transforming*

Chair: Raphaële Preisinger, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich

**9:20–9:40** | **Christine Göttler, Universität Bern**

Sites of Conversion: Rubens's Studio, the Antwerp Mint, and the Spanish Empire

**9:40–10:00** | **Katherine Mills, Harvard University | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz**

How to Recover from Disaster: Local Stonemasons Rebuild Cuzco in the Aftermath of the 1650 Earthquake

**10:00–10:20** | **Francisco Montes González, Universidad de Sevilla**

Tempesta en México: Una interpretación iconológica de los enconchados de la Conquista

**10:20–10:40** | Q&A

**10:40–11:00** | *Break*

**Session 5** *Challenging ~ Uprooting ~ Regenerating*

Chair: Marta Albalá Pelegrín, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona

**11:00–11:20** | **Nicolás Kwiatkowski, Universidad de San Martín – CONICET | Universitat Pompeu Fabra**

Elephants, Drugs, Books and the Inquisition. Garcia de Orta, from the Iberian Peninsula to Goa

**11:20–11:40** | **Fabien Montcher, Center for Iberian Historical Studies, Saint Louis University**

El Arte Nuevo of Natural History: Revealing the Power of 'Local Nature'

**11:40–12:00** | **Javier Patiño Loira, University of California, Los Angeles | I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies**

A World Without Models: Truffles' Impossible Families in Early Modern Italy

**12:00–12:20** | Q&A

**12:20–12:40** | *Closing remarks*

**Maria Vittoria Spissu, DAR – UNIBO**

**12:40** | *Lunch*