



CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Project TESTA** '*The transformations of the State: Political structures, social agents, and discourses of legitimacy in the kingdom of Aragon (14th-15th centuries). A comparative perspective*' (ref. HAR2015-68209-P) and the **Research Group CEMA** of the **University of Zaragoza** announce the Colloquium to be held in Zaragoza (Spain) on 7-9 June 2017:

Identity economics: a comparative perspective on the Crown of Aragon and the Low Countries (13th-16th centuries)

The core team of the **Research Group CEMA** (<http://cema.unizar.es>) involves researchers of the Department of Medieval History of the University of Zaragoza, who aspire to keep a long-held tradition of academic excellence in this area of knowledge. The collective effort of its members, professors, doctors, junior researchers and archivists, headed by José Ángel Sesma Muñoz, has resulted in significant contributions welcomed by the national and international scientific community.

The overall objective of the **Project TESTA** is to study the changes that occur in the State form during the 14th and 15th centuries from a specific viewpoint, that is, the kingdom of Aragon, within the context of the Crown of Aragon and the rest of the European States. Two of its specific objectives are the research on social agents of institutional change, and the study of State intervention on economy.

Description and organization of the Seminar

The aim of this colloquium is to bring together young historians of different periods and contexts in order to explore the possibilities of the 'identity economics' to explain regional disparities within the expansionist dynamics in Europe immediately preceding the First Global Age. We suggest a comparative approach to the Crown of Aragon and the Low Countries between 1250-1550; two territories that exemplify the trends and contradictions of an economic system under construction, which gathers from the Mediterranean Sea to Northern Europe. Small places,

apparently isolated, such as the mountains of the south of the kingdom of Aragon, reflect the impact of the process through the articulation of complex networks. In a broad sense, the 'identity economics' helps to explain the individual and collective economic decisions, and the economic impact of the social factors.

The colloquium will consist of three discussion and debate sessions:

1. State and the deployment of mercantile policies (the creation of a specific taxation system, the application of legal market regulations, local interventionism, and protectionism) as a way of minimizing transaction costs, and stimulating trust among financial and mercantile operators.
2. Agent's identity (social group, gender roles, education) and economic behaviours. Individuals in the articulation of market spaces (production, consumption, product circulation).
3. Informal structures of exchange: networks and mechanisms of 'international' and inter-confessional cooperation. Groups of individuals and collective dynamics may generate persistent transformations in the economic systems (as is the case of the mercantile societies, which adapt constantly in the suggested period).

Researchers in Economic History, Social Sciences, Cultural Studies and other disciplines are invited to submit abstracts of **20 minutes papers**. Synthetic reflections or case studies (not only restricted to the Crown of Aragon and the Low Countries if suitable for comparison) based on any on the abovementioned themes are welcomed. Submissions considering the following topics shall be considered positively:

- Social organization of trade
- Interaction between economic systems
- Social identities construction
- Gender inequality

We aim to provide a forum for speakers and participants to reflect upon the pointed issues, and anticipate new avenues for economic history and medieval culture studies.

Applications and admission

Please, send your proposal, including a **paper title**, your **name** and **affiliation**, and a **postal address**, as well as a short **abstract in English** (max. 800 words), to mariaviu@unizar.es before the 10th of January 2017.

An international evaluation committee will examine the proposals received and will present the selected candidates. After this stage, researchers who are accepted will be asked to **draft** their paper. We highly recommend that this draft version (**in English**) includes a state of the art, a description of the methodology and sources used, and some conclusions, so that it shall be of greater length than the colloquium oral communication of 20 minutes.

The languages of the seminar will be English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Nevertheless, the abstract and the draft must be written in English, as well as the slides of the presentation (if applicable), in order to promote the most open debate possible.

Dates and location

The Colloquium will take place in Zaragoza (Spain) from **7th to 9th June 2017**. Researchers are requested to send their application no later than the **10th of January 2017**. The selection of participants will be completed by mid-February. Deadline for submission of drafts is **April 21**. Following that date, the drafts will be made available to all participants via email.

Funding

The organizers will not cover accommodation and travel costs (possibly covered by researchers' home institutions). It is intended to seek for financing to help with the cost of meals, but this is not guaranteed in this call.

Contact and information

For enquiries concerning this Call for Papers, please contact the committee at: mariaviu@unizar.es.

Professor in charge

Carlos Laliena Corbera (*Leading Researcher – Project TESTA*)

Organizing committee

Sandra de la Torre Gonzalo (*Junior PhD – Group CEMA*)

María Viu Fandos (*PhD Student – University of Zaragoza*)

María Jesús García Arnal (*PhD Student – University of Zaragoza*)