

## PROJECT

"Mestizo" (métis, mestiço, mesties) was the most prominent legal categorization referring to people of so-called "mixed" ancestry in colonial contexts in the Americas. It played a key role in the organization of social difference and the concept contributed to processes of increasing racialization.

The project aims at tracing the origin, dissemination, translation and adaptation of the categorization in the early modern Americas. It studies practices of mestiz@s and their families and processes of belonging and migration in a transimperial approach.



Image: Unknown author, 1780, Colección de Malu y Alejandra Escandón, via Wikimedia Commons, public domain.

## IDEENLABOR

In the world of science, there are ideas that go beyond the ordinary – ideas that challenge conventional thought patterns, open new horizons and pave the way for ground-breaking discoveries. However, these ideas often appear to be too risky or unconventional to be immediately pursued through conventional funding channels. In order to initiate and promote such projects at the University of Münster, the "Ideas Lab" was established as a strategic funding measure.

The researchers in the 2024 funding cohort are pursuing exceptionally innovative and enterprising project ideas in research, teaching and transfer. In this way, they are advancing academic discourse in their respective disciplines and beyond.



<https://www.uni-muenster.de/forschung/en/profil/ideenlabor/index.html>

## ORGANIZATION

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### Project Research Assistants Team

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## MESTIZ@ AS A TRANSIMPERIAL CATEGORY

February 12th 2025



Image: Anónimo, siglo XVIII. Museo Nacional del Virreinato (Tepotzotlán) via Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain.

## WORKSHOP

The Workshop enquires about the colonial categorization of the mestizo (métis, mesties, meticcio, mestiço) in imperial figurations worldwide.

Colonial legal and social categorizations had significant impacts on those categorized, as they determined their rights and obligations in society. At the same time, they reveal much about the colonizers' worldview and their notions of order. To some extent, they persist to this day.

The Workshop will both discuss a project in progress in Münster and feature talks by invited scholars from France, Italy, and Germany. Fellow scholars and students are invited to join.

## Location and registration

Historisches Seminar  
Room Fürstenberghaus - F 234  
Dompl. 20-22, 48143 Münster

Registration at [n\\_hell09@uni-muenster.de](mailto:n_hell09@uni-muenster.de)  
by January 15th  
2025

## PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 12 February

#### Mestiz@ as a Transimperial Category

8:45 - 9:00

##### Welcome and Introduction

9:00 - 9:15

##### The Project: General Introduction

Sarah Albiez-Wieck and Daniel R. Bonenkamp  
(Universität Münster)

9:15 - 9:30

##### Part 1: Origin and Transimperial Actors by Niccolò Pelosato

(Leiden Universiteit-Universität Münster)

9:30 - 9:45

##### Part 2: Law and Practice by Daniëlle de Kurver

(Leiden Universiteit-Universität Münster)

9:45-10:00

##### Part 3: Migration and Belonging by David Hellmann

(Universität Münster)

10:00 - 10:45

##### Discussion

10:45 - 11:00

##### Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:45

##### The gender of mestizaje in Latin American and Caribbean societies (16th-20th centuries)

Capucine Boidin (l'Université Sorbonne Nouvelle)

11:45 - 12:30

##### Mixed Meanings: the construction of the category of "mesties" across the eighteenth-century Dutch empire

Sophie Rose (University of Tübingen)

12:30-13:45

Lunch Break (on-site)

13:45-14:30

##### The uses of the terms "métis" (mestizo) and "mulâtre" (mulatto) in the French colonies from 1635 to 1848

Frédéric Régent (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

14:30-15:15

##### On the edge of citizenship. For a history of the meticci in Italian colonialism

Nicola Camilleri (Maynooth University)

15:15 - 15:30

##### Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:15

##### Mixedness in the Red Sea: Cross-Cultural Dynamics and the Policies of Classification

Valentina Fusari (Università di Torino)

16:15 - 16:40

##### Comment by Christoph Lörke

(Universität Münster - LWL-Institut für Regionalgeschichte)

16:40 - 17:40

Final Discussion

18:30

Dinner at Pinkus