

## > Venue

SFB 1150 „Kulturen des Entscheidens“  
Domplatz 6  
Room 303  
48143 Münster

## > Organisation

SFB 1150 „Kulturen des Entscheidens“

Project B03 "Decisions without Alternatives? The Establishment of the Spanish Inquisition during the Reign of the Catholic Monarchs"  
(Prof. Dr. Wolfram Drews, Sebastian Rothe)

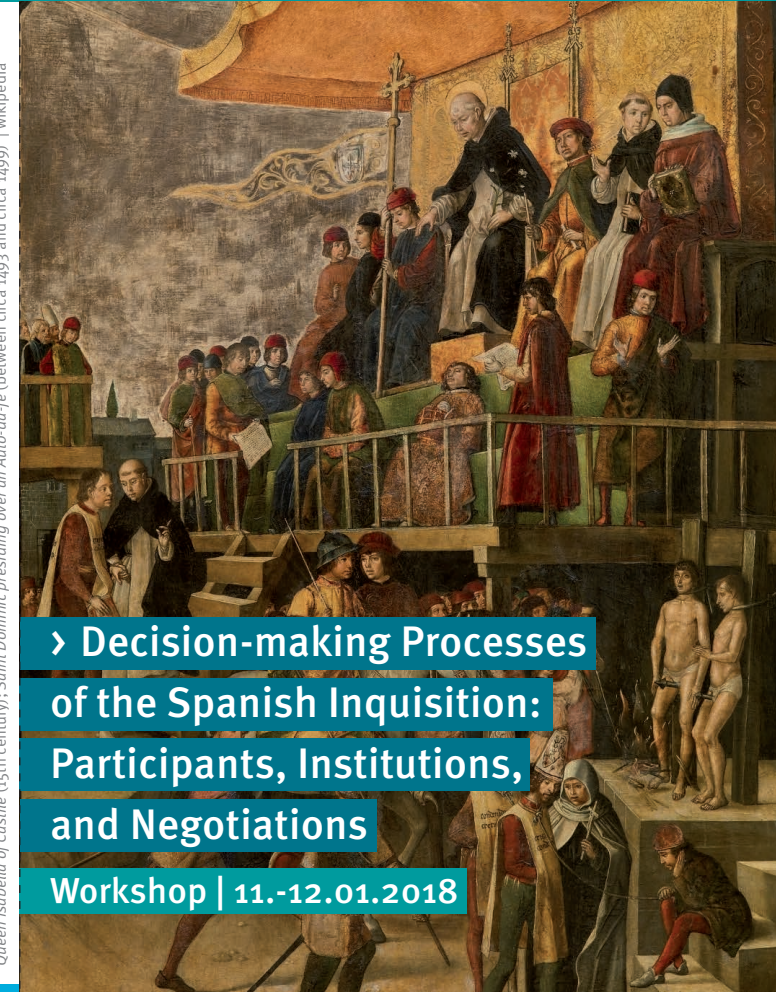
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## > Registration

until 9th January 2018  
with [sebastian.rothe@uni-muenster.de](mailto:sebastian.rothe@uni-muenster.de)

Bildnachweis: A(rchivo) D(iocesano) (de) C(uenca), Inq., 1/9, fol. 27 r; Anonymous, *Wedding portrait of King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile* (15th century); *Saint Dominic presiding over an Auto-da-fe* (between circa 1493 and circa 1499) | wikipedia

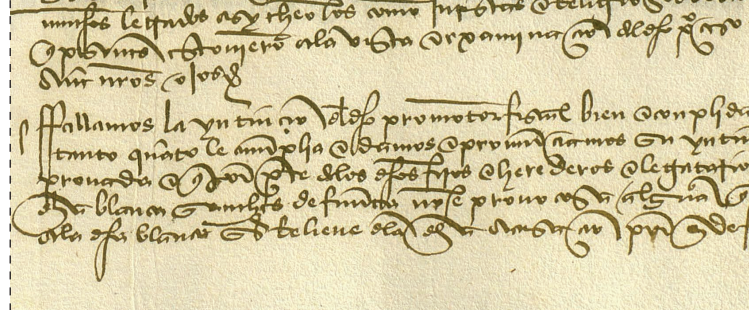


> Decision-making Processes  
of the Spanish Inquisition:  
Participants, Institutions,  
and Negotiations  
Workshop | 11.-12.01.2018

## › Decision-making Processes of the Spanish Inquisition: Participants, Institutions, and Negotiations

Unlike any other institution of the pre-modern period, the Spanish inquisition is commonly associated with political show trials and arbitrary rule. From this point of view, which goes back to 16th-century Protestant propaganda, the sentences pronounced would have been predetermined. However, revisionist attempts highlighting the rationality of the inquisitorial techniques seem to have adopted, unwillingly or not, the inquisitorial perspective: inquisitors made inquiries [Latin *inquisitiones*] in order to determine the truth about heretics who had chosen [Greek: *haíresis/hairetízō*] the wrong way. The international and interdisciplinary workshop will question these narratives by considering inquisitorial decision-making from the perspective of cultural history, regarding it as a specific form of social interaction. In this respect, the inquisition's founding period under the reign of the Catholic Monarchs is of special interest as we cannot only observe the activities of historical actors and institutions that participated in the inquisitorial proceedings, but also of those involved in establishing the inquisition and expanding its competences. The workshop will deal with the following questions: which persons or social groups identified the need to establish an institution commissioned to decide about the orthodoxy of individuals, and which means did they employ to do so? Who denied that need? How did the inquisition create the need to extend its competences? What could be decided about in inquisitorial proceedings according to the contemporary perception? In which way were options generated, evaluated, and selected? What could the inquisitors decide about in the end?

The workshop will bring together international experts, medievalists as well as early modern and legal historians, in order to discuss this new approach of examining decision-making processes of the Spanish inquisition. The resulting interdisciplinary discussion will not only contribute to a better understanding of the Spanish inquisition's founding period, it will also bring together different strands of research: scholars interested in the working of the inquisition itself and its legal framework, and those more interested in the history of groups persecuted by the inquisition, like specialists of converso, morisco or witchcraft studies.



### › Programme

#### Thursday January 11th

- 13.30 Wolfram Drews (Münster): Reception and introduction
- 14.00 Gretchen Starr-LeBeau (Principia College, Illinois): Witnesses, accusers, and victims as participants in the decision-making processes of the Spanish Inquisition
- 14.45 Gunnar Knutsen (Bergen): Arbitrium - Studying the impact of judicial discretion in the Spanish Inquisition
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 16.00 Sebastian Rothe (Münster): Learned men in the trials of the Spanish Inquisition in Cuenca: Consultants or decision-makers?
- 16.45 José María Cruselles Gómez (Valencia): Alternativas de una decisión: las confesiones autoinculpatorias ante el tribunal de la Inquisición de Valencia (1482)
- 17.30 María del Pilar Rábade Obradó (Madrid): La toma de decisiones en relación con las denuncias de criptojudíos ante los tribunales inquisitoriales de Ciudad Real y Toledo (1481-1504)

#### Friday January 12th

- 09.00 Eduardo Galván Rodríguez (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria): Las complicadas relaciones entre Fernando el Católico y los primeros Inquisidores Generales
- 09.45 Nadia Zeldes (Beer Sheva): The stepping stones that built the Spanish Inquisition in Sicily: royal decisions and negotiation
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Agustí Alcoberro i Pericay (Barcelona): Los relatos milenaristas y la expulsión de los judíos de los reinos hispánicos
- 11.45 Constanza Cavallero (Buenos Aires): Inquisición y judeoconversos, Inquisición y moriscos. El Tribunal Inquisitorial en las décadas previas a las expulsiones masivas de 1492 y 1609-1614