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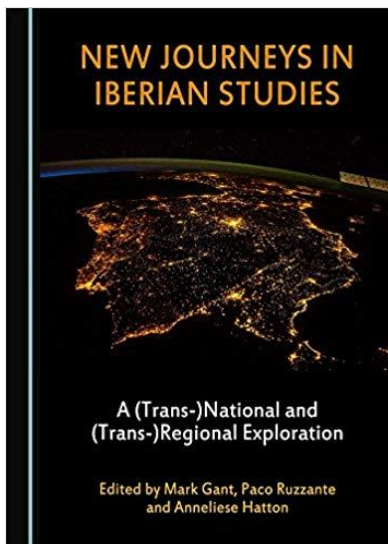
## **(1) Dear ACIS members,**

We hope that this email find you well. This is the new newsletter of the Association for contemporary Iberian Study that will form now be delivered three times per year, corresponding with the beginning of the terms in the UK. First of all, we want to introduce you to our new Post-graduate representative Fabian Schmiedel, who is going to join Paco Ruzzante in the PG team. We also thank Anneliese Hatton for the work undertaken during these years and wish her the best luck for the new position she obtained.

If you have any comment or suggestion on how to improve the newsletter, or for any other question related to the ACIS PG world, do not hesitate to contact us.

Paco and Fabian

## **(2) New Journeys in Iberian Studies: A (Trans-)National and (Trans-)Regional Exploration**



The ACIS is happy to announce the publication of a volume drawn from its 2017 conference in Norwich. While the basis for the publication were the papers presented at the conference, these were re-elaborated and revised on the basis of the discussion and are presented now under the form of a proper book. The research collected in this volume consists of 18 chapters which explore a number of key areas of investigation in contemporary Iberian studies. As the title suggests, there is a strong emphasis on trans-national and trans-regional approaches to the subject area, reflecting current discourse and scholarship, but the contributions are not limited by these approaches and include an eclectic range of recent work by scholars of history, politics, literature, the visual arts and cultural and social studies, often working in transdisciplinary ways. For more information follow the link:

<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/new-journeys-in-iberian-studies>

### (3) Iberian news

- The deadline for the international conference 'Nuevas miradas sobre el antiimperialismo y/o el antiamericanismo desde la Historia, la Literatura y el Arte' which will be held at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid on the 17th and 18th of December 2018 is approaching. For information please contact: email [caa18uam@gmail.es](mailto:caa18uam@gmail.es) or check the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/caa18uam>
- The Casa de Velázquez offers a series of opportunities for postgraduate students and scholars: <https://www.casadevelazquez.org/es/la-casa/candidaturas-investigadores/>
- Recruitment of the members of the École des hautes études hispaniques et ibériques for the year 2019-2020. <https://www.casadevelazquez.org/index.php?id=26>
- The Ministry of Defense is going to release the military archives of the Civil war and of the postwar period. For more information read the article on El País [https://elpais.com/politica/2018/09/16/actualidad/1537121723\\_032402.html](https://elpais.com/politica/2018/09/16/actualidad/1537121723_032402.html)

### (4) Report on the Annual Conference - UAB 2018 by Fabian Schmiedel

Have you been with us on the 41st annual conference in the Faculty of Law at the University of Barcelona? If not, this is what you missed:

More than 120 researchers presented their current projects in more than 60 panels, covering topics such as migration, regional identities, historical traumas in literature, financial crisis, colonial relationship, pedagogical innovation and urban life, just to mention a very few of them. The broad range of topics and disciplines proves once again the capacity of ACIS of integrating a huge variety of disciplines; a fusion which can be a stimulating source for new research topics and progress in Iberian studies.

Three keynote speeches should be highlighted at this point:

Alexandre Abreu, economist at the Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão and political analyst, among others for the Portuguese journal *O Expresso*, gave a very detailed analysis of the current challenges the Portuguese economy is facing: the „tuk-tuk economy“, named after the motorcycle-driven vehicles that carry tourists up and down the hills of Lisbon or Porto, brings new jobs to Portugal, however, low paid and with overall stagnant productivity. Europe's „good pupil's“ economy went from a post-1974 boom over to an economic stagnation from 2000, and then, onwards, to a post-2009 crisis management. Since 2015, the new Socialist minority government turns the page on austerity. These „austerity lite“ politics, with public investment and public services still in trouble, however, makes „the sun shine again“ for at least a few branches of the Portuguese economy, Abreu affirmed. Nevertheless, productivity stays low. Maybe it is the sun of Florida that shines in Portugal nowadays, with low-paid jobs and high-paid retirees settling down from all over Europe.

„La verdad no es la verdad, sino la interpretación de la verdad“, admits Andreu Mayayo Artal, historian at the UAB and second keynote speaker on our annual conference, quoting Noam Chomsky at the very beginning of his speech titled „Noticias del Procés“. He puts into question whether the referendum on the 1st of October 2017 was overall legal, and outlined why, taking voter participation into consideration, a „mayoría idendependista creada“ misused democracy for „un golpe de minoría“.

Mayayo Artal underlines similarities with other nationalist movements in Europe and points out that, nowadays, it is an overall class with good income that supports Catalan independence movement. At the

moment, Ciudadanos seems to benefit from this conflict, having increased their number of seats in the Generalitat from 9 to 36 deputies after the local elections in 2017.

The Catalan conflict is „a political puzzle“, as Enric Ucelay-Da Cal, New York born historian at the Pompeu Fabra, summed up in the conference closure speech; nevertheless, the players play a very simple „Victory-Victory | Defeat-Defeat“ game. Uceley-Da Cal draws the big picture, bringing the conflict in the fundamental US-American debate that has been fought throughout the 18th Century: „Catalan Federalism is against Lincoln, but pro Calhoun“ and puts civil society and street action higher than the law - „Pel dret a decidir!“ The huge dynamics, not over years but days, show how two weak players „fight a siege, not a battle“ and prove that Spain is a Civil War culture with wounds still open.

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