

International Conference

Iberian Patronages and the Congregation of Propaganda Fide:

Antagonism, Alignment and Cooperation

(17th-20th centuries)

Call for Papers

Name: International Conference “Iberian Patronages and the Congregation of Propaganda Fide: Antagonism, Alignment and Cooperation (17th-20th centuries)”

Date: 29-31 January 2025

Venue: Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Coimbra (Coimbra, Portugal)

Submission of proposals: until 31 October 2024

The historical narratives concerning the missionary initiatives of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide in territories claimed by or under the jurisdiction of the royal patronages of the Iberian Crowns were teemed with conflicts, controversies and disputes. The competitive nature that undeniably characterised the relationship between the three authorities has shaped the historiography on this phenomenon, highlighting their contrasting stances. Although the antagonism can be considered structural in the dynamics between these actors (Padroado, Patronato and Propaganda Fide), it does not encompass the diversity of responses towards the foundation of the new dicastery in 1622, which was canonically created by Gregory XV's bull *Inscrutabili Divinae Providentiae Arcano* (22 June).

The formation of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide, although viewed with suspicion by the Iberian crowns, aroused expectation and interest by various ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical agents of the Portuguese *Padroado* and the Spanish *Patronato*, including bishops, members of religious orders, secular priests, apostolic nuncios, inquisitors, nobles, and even members of royal families who celebrated its creation and initiated direct communications with the dicastery.

In the nineteenth century, the impact of liberal reforms on religious life in Portugal and Spain (especially with the abolishment of religious orders in 1834 and 1836, respectively) and the increasing direct intervention of the Holy See in missionary *ad gentes* activities aggravated the hostile relations between Lisbon, Madrid and Rome on the one hand, and affected the religious experience of the converted populations on the other. This conflict

contributed to the simplistic image of the attitude of Propaganda Fide towards the Padroado and vice versa both in Portuguese and Spanish historiographies and in terms of the consciousness of the population in the Indian subcontinent. In the case of liberal reforms in American territories, new transformations and their impacts were underlined by historians, yet in recent decades, more nuances have been added to the scholarly discussions.

This congress aims to explore different forms of interaction and communication between representatives of the Padroados and the Congregation of Propaganda Fide in terms of antagonism, convergence and cooperation, starting from the creation of the dicastery in the seventeenth century to the end of the patronage system in the twentieth century, in territories under the control of the Iberian Padroados (America, Africa and Asia) and the Holy See.

Topics of interest include:

- The creation of Propaganda Fide before the Iberian Patronages
- Global missionary strategies on behalf of the Holy See
- Definitions and juridical concepts of the patronage system and Propaganda Fide
- Convergences and divergences in missionary action and thought between the *Padroado*, the *Patronato* and Propaganda Fide.
- Theoretical arguments (jurisdictional, military, religious, etc.) evoked in the disputes between the patronages and Propaganda Fide
- Propaganda Fide in the face of the rivalry of the Iberian patronages
- Impacts of the competition between the Iberian patronages and Propaganda Fide on Spanish and Portuguese missionary strategies
- Political responses to missionary tensions in American, Asian, and African territories
- The role of converted colonial populations in the relationship between the patronages and Propaganda Fide
- The question of the indigenisation of the clergy
- Conversion processes and religious experiences within the relationships between the patronages and Propaganda Fide
- Linguistic and cultural aspects of the missions under the patronages and Propaganda Fide

Proposal submission: Paper proposals should include an abstract of up to 250 words, including title, author's name, affiliation, and a short biographical note (up to 200 words). Proposals may be submitted in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

The proposals should be sent to padroados.propaganda.2025@gmail.com by 31 October 2024.

Organizing Committee:

Carlo Pelliccia (ISEM-CNR/UNINT)

Hugo Gonçalves Dores (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura, Universidade de Coimbra)

Marina Torres Trimállez (Universidad de Cantabria/KU Leuven)

Miguel Rodrigues Lourenço (CHAM-Universidade Nova de Lisboa/CEHR – Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

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