

FRIDAY 04/17

Nebrija University

9:45-10:00 - Reception

10:00-11:45- Session 7
The protecting powers' action
and international relations

Hannes BOCK

Bundesarchiv Berlin

Spain's Humanitarian Aid for Russian "Enemy Aliens"
in Germany during the First World War

José Antonio SÁNCHEZ ROMÁN

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

Spain's Protection of Ottoman Subjects
during the Long Great War

Adrian-Bogdan CEOBANU

Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza

A Lesser-Known Issue in the History
of Romanian-Norwegian Relations: the Support
of the Norwegian Diplomatic Mission for Romanians
in Soviet Russia (1918)

11:45-12:00 - Break

12:00-13:00- Session 8
Facts, but also words (II):
memory and historiography

Joana DUUYSTER BORREDA

Reichspräsident Friedrich Ebert Memorial Foundation, Heidelberg

The Memory of Humanitarianism: Comparing the
Discourses and the Institutionalization of Spanish
and Nordic Humanitarianism after 1918

Alejandro ACOSTA LÓPEZ

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

and Alison GIL CAMPA

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

Humanidad o estrategia: lecturas historiográficas
sobre Alfonso XIII ante la Primera Guerra Mundial

13:00-14:30 - Round table / Public session

14:30-15:00 - Closure

THE COMMITTED NEUTRALITY. A TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF SPANISH HUMANITARIANISM IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO THE 1920S

Building on the dynamic initiated during a workshop held in 2024, this conference seeks to gather separate initiatives and to bring together specialists to address historiographical gaps concerning Spanish actions during the war. As few studies go beyond 1918, the conference examines these actions from a global perspective in the context of the 1920s by comparing them with the actions of other institutions and neutral countries, such as Sweden, Denmark, the Vatican and the ICRC. This initiative is based on the conviction that this approach will produce more inspiring, relevant and compelling research for understanding the connections between institutions across multiple countries and sources written in multiple languages. This is especially promising given the rich archives produced by the Spanish monarchy during the war, which have recently been included by the UNESCO in its «Memory of the World» Programme. The conference will also provide an opportunity to broaden the disciplinary, geographical and temporal scope of First World War Studies. The aim is to develop an integrative perspective on humanitarian action and 'transnational neutrality', examining the humanitarian challenges faced by neutral countries and institutions that were literally caught in the crossfire on different fronts.

Location: CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ, C/ Paul Guinard, 3. Ciudad Universitaria. Madrid - GENERAL ARCHIVE OF THE PALACE, C/ de Bailén, Centro. Madrid - NEBRIJA UNIVERSITY, C/ de Sta. Cruz de Marcenado, 27, Centro. Madrid

Online or in-person participation, subject to availability: [Registration required here before April 10](#)

Organized by



FIES

FUNDACIÓN
INSTITUCIONAL
ESPAÑOLA

ISF
WWS International
Society for
First World
War Studies



In collaboration with

uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Instituto de Estudios Contemporáneos,
Política y Gobernanza

PROYECTO PROGRAMA PROPIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE LA
UC3M 2024/00708/001

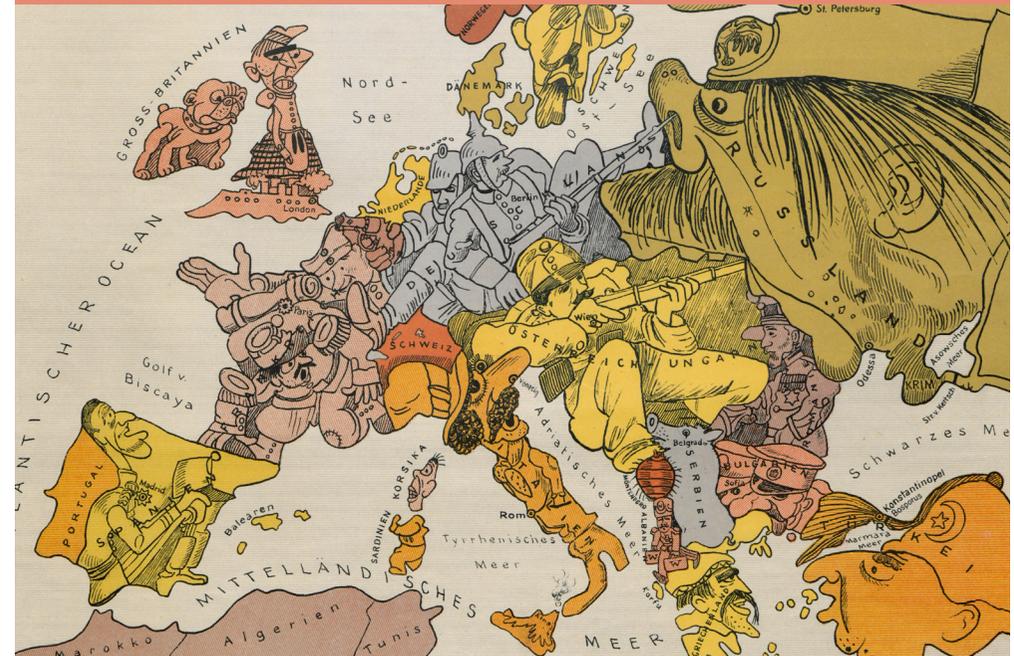
15-17 APRIL 2026

CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ / GENERAL ARCHIVE OF THE PALACE / NEBRIJA UNIVERSITY



International Conference

THE COMMITTED NEUTRALITY. A TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF SPANISH HUMANITARIANISM IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO THE 1920S



Coordination

Zorann PETROVICI
Universidad Pontificia Comillas / Universidad Nebrija
Nina RÉGIS
Casa de Velázquez

Organising Committee

Alejandro ACOSTA LÓPEZ
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Laura BRANCIFORTE
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Berta LILLO GUTIÉRREZ
Universidad de Alicante
David G. MIGUEL VIDALES
Universidad de Valladolid
Nicolas STASSAR
Freie Universität, Berlin
Beatriz VALVERDE CONTRERAS
Universidade de Coimbra

Scientific Committee

Stéphane AUDOIN-ROUZEAU
EHESS, Paris
Arnd BAUERKÄMPER
Freie Universität, Berlin
Annette BECKER
Université Paris-Nanterre
Cédric COTTER
ICRC, Geneva
Sebastien FARRÉ
Université de Genève
David MARCILHACY
Sorbonne Université
José Antonio MONTERO JIMÉNEZ
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Antonio Manuel MORAL RONCAL
Universidad de Alcalá de Henares

Contact:

Luis González Fernández: luis.gonzalez@casadevelazquez.org
Camille Guieu: camille.guieu@casadevelazquez.org

WEDNESDAY 04/15

Casa de Velázquez

9:30-10:00 - Introduction

Nancy BERTHIER
Directora de la Casa de Velázquez

Rafael GUARDANS
Presidente de la Fundación Institucional Española

Zorann PETROVICI
Universidad Pontificia Comillas / Universidad Nebrija

Nina RÉGIS
Casa de Velázquez

10:00-11:45 - Session 1 Neutral countries and humanitarian institutions

Cédric COTTER
International Committee of the Red Cross
A Peaceful Island in the Storm: Humanitarian Action and the Building of the Swiss Culture of Neutrality during the First World War

Berta LILLO-GUTIÉRREZ
Universidad de Alicante

Humanitarianism, Gender, and Prestige: The Diplomatic Struggle of Neutral States to Become the "Capital of Peace"

Jacopo PILI
Università di Roma Tor Vergata
The Vatican and the I.C.R.C.: Humanitarian Competition in the Interwar Years

11:45-12:00 - Break

12:00-13:45 - Session 2 The everyday experience of Spanish delegates in Prisoners of War Camps

Claudiu-Lucian TOPOR
Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza
Neutral States and the Diplomacy of Captivity: Spanish Delegates on the Imprisonment of Romanians in German Camps (1916-1918)

Léna RÉVOLTE-SAVELON
Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne

Rediscovering the French Prisoners at Wittenberg: A Comparative Study of the Reports of the ICRC and Those of the Royal Spanish Embassy

Beatriz VALVERDE CONTRERAS
Universidade de Coimbra
"In Order to Defend the French Prisoner...": Humanitarianism and Neutrality in Spain's Legal Assistance to French Prisoners during the First World War

13:45-16:00 - Lunch break

16:00-17:45 - Session 3 Helping the vulnerable: petitioner practices and philanthropic missions

Zorann PETROVICI
Universidad Pontificia Comillas
Writing to a King. Epistolary Practices in Humanitarian Aid Requested from Alfonso XIII during the First World War

Nina RÉGIS
Casa de Velázquez
Children as Actors in Wartime: Quiet Voices, Emotions and Humanitarianism during World War I through Letters to Alfonso XIII

Gabriel STELIAN MANEA
Universitatea Ovidius din Constanta
Care and Mission: The Role of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Supporting the Sick and Orphans during the First World War

17:45-18:00 - Break

18:00-19:00 - Session 4 International relations and humanitarian help to the refugees

David G. MIGUEL VIDALES
Universidad de Valladolid
Aid for the Exiled Russians: Fridtjof Nansen and the High Commissioner for the Refugees
Arthur TULUS
Universitatea Dunarea de Jos
The Reception in Romania of Refugees During the Russian Civil War (1917-1921): Between Humanitarian Aid and Fear of Bolshevism

THURSDAY 04/16

General Archive of the Palace and Casa de Velázquez

9:15-9:30 - Reception

9:30-12:30 - Visit to the General Archive of the Palace (Madrid)

12:30-15:00 - Lunch break

15:00-16:45 - Session 5 Facts, but also words (I): discourses and public opinion

Alberto NUÑEZ RODRÍGUEZ
Universidad de Salamanca
Hacia el humanitarismo desde el internacionalismo. Los socialistas españoles ante la Primera Guerra Mundial

Carlos J. GARCÍA-REYES
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Neutrality in Transit? Saturnino Giménez Enrich and Spanish Humanitarianism Beyond the War of 1914-1918

María Inés TATO
National Scientific and Technical Research Council - CONICET
Neutralist Variations: State and Civil Society Responses to Humanitarianism in Argentina in the Great War

16:45-17:00 - Break

17:00-18:45 - Session 6 The war ends? Humanitarianism doesn't!

Mairi S. MACDONALD
University of Saskatchewan
Reintroducing Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Law: Spain's Role in the Development of the Laws of War

Lurdes CORTÈS-BRAÑA
PhD, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Neutrality and Humanitarian Aid to Children during the First World War and its Aftermath: the Case of Spain

Laura BRANCIFORTE
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
El humanitarismo internacional: Karen Jeppe y la Comisión para la Protección de la Mujer y el Niño en Oriente Próximo (1921-1927)