Performing Otherness: a Postcolonial Approach to Francoist Spain,
26 October 2018, University of Edinburgh

This international symposium opens up discussion of Spanish art and culture in relation to the construction of discourses of coloniality in 20th-century Spain, especially in the Francoist period. It attempts to identify methodological approaches that would allow us to understand the consolidation of hegemonic colonial discourses and how they continue in Spain today. This examination involves an analysis of constructs of Otherness in two directions – inwards and outwards. On the one hand, how did artists, performers, writers, or other cultural brokers, based in Spain, exoticise other cultures as well as their own culture as part of official rhetoric (e.g. state-funded exhibitions relating to colonial territories in Africa; translations of Chinese texts/images, state administration of rural Spain). On the other hand, the analysis is concerned with Spanish (self-)representation as Other within international contexts (eg. Picasso in African attire; flamenco in imagery for tourism/political campaigns; Hispanic Studies as a political contestation to the dictatorship).

Organisation: María Iñigo Clavo (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya) of the R&D Research Group “Experiences of the Political in Francoist Spain” (MINECO) with the School of History of Art, UoE. Venue: Hunter Lecture Theatre, Hunter Building, 74 Lauriston Place, University of Edinburgh.
Details and registration: https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/event/performing-otherness-postcolonial-approach-francoist-spain

9.00-9.30 REGISTRATION
9.30-10.00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
  • Yayo Aznar (UNED) and María Iñigo Clavo (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

10.00-13.00
PANEL 1: APPROPRIATING THE EXOTIC
Chair: Paloma Gay-Blasco (University of St Andrews)
  • Neil Cox (University of Edinburgh). Picasso (title tbc)
  • Esther Planas (University of the Arts London). Dissociative Fugue Disorder. Auto-exoticism as bio politics: Ways of questioning the production of culture during Francoism
  • Francisco Aix (Universidad de Sevilla). Flamenco as a means to identity. An Andalusian perspective.
  • Alicia Fuentes Vega (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) – title tbc

14.00-17.00
PANEL 2: ON THE MEANING OF COLONY IN FRANCOISM
Chair: Richard Williams (University of Edinburgh)
  • Carles Prado Pons (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya). A triangulated alterity: China in Spain, 1880-1930
  • José Saval (University of Edinburgh). Latin American Boom or Boomerang: the impact of the periphery in the metropolis.