

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

« Princesses' journeys : new perspectives on dynastic alliances »

(Western Europe, 15th-17th century)

3 et 4 mars 2022 at the MSH Lyon

Symposium organised by Elodie CONTI (LARHRA) and Clara KALOGÉRAKIS (IRHiS)

In 1992, Louise Olga FRADENBURG encouraged « rethinking queenship » in terms of gender. Her work (4) was the beginning of a major historiographical renewal. Anglo-Saxon scholars quickly reacted by proposing numerous publications using the notion of queenship. In France, the first studies were conducted in the 2000s, notably with Fanny COSANDEY's pioneering study of on the Queen of France (2). Then the question took a more collective dimension with the book on European princesses co-edited by Marie-Karine SCHAUB and Isabelle POUTRIN in 2007 (10). The two historians encourage their readers to initiate "comparative approaches on subjects" and to "highlight some of the stages that punctuate the lives of European queens and princesses".

This symposium intends to follow this perspective with the aim of highlighting a very important aspect of the life of princesses that has not yet been studied on a large scale through the prism of queenship: dynastic alliances. They are a major constituent of the international politics and diplomacy of European states and have therefore been studied extensively. However, in the light of the observation already made twenty years ago, we know that princesses are too often neglected by political history and, consequently, relatively absent from our knowledge of this subject. Princesses are pushed into the background, considered as simple objects of exchange with no opinion, no feelings and no power.

The objective of this symposium is to give princesses their true place back in political and diplomatic history by changing the point of view. Placed at the centre of thinking as agents, it is from their views and experiences that we will engage in a rediscovery and rereading of the history of dynastic alliances.

Here, we understand "princesses" as the female members of sovereign families, i.e. the daughters and wives of kings. The choice of this definition allows us to follow the trajectories of princesses who became queen by succession (sovereign queen), by marriage (queen consort) but also of those who did not. With the choice of a broad

timeline covering two centuries and an equally large geographical area, the sample of princesses concerned is significant, which will make it possible to have a whole range of possible situations, from different periods and different countries. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that it will not be a matter of juxtaposing biographies of princesses but rather of adopting a comparative approach on this subject through the three themes defined below.

In the aim of opening new perspectives through a fresh outlook, it seemed necessary to us not to limit the thinking to political history nor to the historical field. We therefore encourage the submission of talks in the fields of cultural, social, economic history... as well as in art history, literature, law, political science, sociology and anthropology.

For this symposium, we invite you to explore topics that fit within these **three broad themes**:

Theme 1 - Princesses at the heart of the European matrimonial market

- Choosing a princess for an alliance: the different arguments (political, economic, dynastic, compatibility...).
- Preparing minds: virtualization (exchange of gifts, letters, portraits...), education of the princess (religion, openness to other cultures and languages, management of a House...), preparation for her future role (instructions, terms of the marriage contract...).

Theme 2 - The dynastic alliance, imagined by and for princesses

- The representation of the princess in narratives: chronicles, narrations, feasts, ceremonies and rituals...
- The princess's expectations and emotions: feelings (about the alliance, her husband, her adopted land, the sacrament of marriage...), experiences of uprooting (geographical, cultural and domestic...), adaptation (to the new dynasty, new role...)

Theme 3 - Princesses' opportunities for action: expected roles and seized roles

- Domestic sphere: wife (influence on the husband), mother (education and religion of the heir), sovereign (in her Household)...
- Political sphere: between the two dynasties, at court, in government (regency...), patronage (cultural, religious...)

Submission guidelines

Each theme will be the subject of:

- an introduction by a member of the scientific committee,
- several presentations,
- a 15 to 20-minute discussion (round table),
- a conclusion by a member of the scientific committee.

The presentations, in French or in English, will last 15 to 20 minutes and can be done in person or by videoconference. The event will take place in a hybrid format : either in person in Lyon and live via videoconference.

Proposals should include a provisional title and an abstract (1 page max., in French or English) as well as a short biographical notice. They must be sent by **July 10th** to the organizers at : princessesalliances@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please write to this address.

All proposals are welcome, regardless of the researcher's degree (MA and above).

Scientific Comittee

Éric BOUSMAR (CRHIDI /CHIREL, Université Saint-Louis, Belgique)

Fanny COSANDEY (CRH, EHESS, France)

Diana PELAZ FLORES (Université de Santiago de Compostela, Espagne)

Elodie LECUPPRE-DESJARDIN (IRHiS, Université Lille 3, France)

Sylvène EDOUARD (LARHRA, Université Lyon 3, France)

Matthieu GELLARD (Centre Roland Mousnier, Sorbonne Université, France)

Bibliography

1. BOUSMAR Éric, Jonathan DUMONT, Alain MARCHANDISSE et Bertrand SCHNERB (dir.), *Femmes de pouvoir, femmes politiques durant les derniers siècles du Moyen Âge et au cours de la première Renaissance*, Bruxelles, De Boeck Université, 2012.
2. COSANDEY Fanny, *La Reine de France. Symbole et pouvoir, XVe-XVIIIe siècle*, Paris, Gallimard, 2000.
3. EARENIGHT Theresa, *Queenship in Medieval Europe*, Basingstoke, New York, Palgrave, 2013.
4. FRADENBURG Louise Olga, *Women and Sovereignty*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 2011.
5. MONTER William, *The Rise of Female Kings in Europe, 1300-1800*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2012.
6. NASSIET Michel, *Parenté, noblesse et États dynastiques, XVe-XVIe siècles*, Paris, Éditions de l'EHESS, 2000.
7. NAYT-DUBOIS Armelle et Emmanuelle SANTINELLI-FOLTZ (dir.), *Femmes de pouvoir et pouvoir des femmes dans l'Occident médiéval et moderne*, Valenciennes, Presses universitaires de Valenciennes, 2009.
8. PALOS JOAN Lluís et Magdalena S. SÁNCHEZ (dir.), *Early modern dynastic marriages and cultural transfer*, Farnham, Ashgate, 2016.
9. PELAZ FLORES Diana, *Reinas consortes. Las reinas de Castilla entre los siglos XI-XV*, Madrid, Sílex, 2017.
10. POUTRIN Isabelle et Marie-Karine SCHAUB (dir.), *Femmes & pouvoir politique. Les princesses d'Europe, XVe-XVIIIe siècle*, Paris, Editions Bréal, 2007.
11. VIENNOT Éliane et Kathleen WILSON (dir.), *Royaume de Fémynie : pouvoirs, contraintes, espaces de liberté des femmes, de la Renaissance à la Fronde*, Paris, Champion, 1999.
12. WOODACRE Elena, *Queenship in the Mediterranean : Negotiating the Role of the Queen in the Medieval and Early Modern Eras*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.