



# EMPIRE OF ROLE MODELS?

## CHAMPIONING AND CHALLENGING GLOBAL IDEALS IN THE EARLY MODERN IBERIAN WORLDS

Organized by Maria Vittoria Spissu (DAR, UNIBO)

Sponsored by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COMCON Project  
and DAMSLab UNIBO

With the support of the Center for Renaissance Studies – The Newberry Library,  
Chicago and the Center for Iberian Historical Studies – Saint Louis University

This symposium addresses the issue of global connections by focusing on the circulations of world views, distributed agency, the transformation of models, transcultural/transformational objects, nomadic ideals, utopian objects promising salvation, objects embodying conflicts or aspiring to heal division, weaponized objects, and images visualizing redemption, negotiation or idealized pacification.

It focuses on the globalizing networks that strove toward universal unity and the synergy generated by the imperial colonial system of sovereignty, hegemony, hierarchy, and local authorities. It explores role models, heroes, moralizing values, and normative virtues within Global Catholicism while embracing the rhizomatic/polyphonic reality that resisted controlling and unifying ambitions.

The symposium examines constellations of images and devotional cults, connected histories, the mobilization of knowledge and ideologies, the fabrication of ideas and narratives, and the imposition or contestation of ideals and social emotions within the Habsburg Empire in Europe, the Iberian Americas, Africa, and Asia during the Global Renaissance and the Global Baroque.

It considers ideas and objects representative of multiple places and communities, but it also aims to give a voice to images and stories that endeavored to escape such a totalizing perspective. This symposium investigates works and actions embedded within collective ideals while delving into objects and encounters/clashes that reveal distance and closeness, sharing and erasure, possession and resistance.

19 JUNE 2025, 10:30–17:30

20 JUNE 2025, 9:15–12:40

UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DELLE ARTI  
PALAZZO MARESCOTTI

VIA BARBERIA 4  
SALONE MARESCOTTI

**ComCon**  
Communities of Concord



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Global Empires  
Artistic Mobilities  
Connected Histories



THE NEWBERRY



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
—  
CENTER FOR IBERIAN  
HISTORICAL STUDIES



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