

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
announces a Lecture

by

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**On the Circulation and Use of Manuscripts in
16th-century Spain and New Spain**

The presentation deals with aspects of the cultural history of manuscripts in Spain and New Spain during the sixteenth century. Despite the success of the printing press, handwritten texts and copies remained widely diffused and had a particular importance there. Based upon the recent historiography and own research, I will discuss the circulation and use of manuscripts in Siglo de Oro Spain, asking in particular if these texts created and strengthened social relations such as community or identity, or if they contributed to setting boundaries against the 'Other'. After an overview of different socially relevant functions of manuscript use (participation, sociability, distinction), select examples will illustrate such an "agency". For instance, direct contact with „cartas de toca“ supposedly had positive consequences. A second example presents a manuscript on Islamic law which was to pass on traditions to mudejares and moriscos; however, it was used as well by Inquisitors to identify 'Crypto-Islamic' customs. Finally, we will review the relevance of manuscripts in the context of mission projects on the Iberian Peninsula and in New Spain (Mexico).

Thursday, 12 July 2018 at 6 pm

Room 0001, CSMC