

Speaker's Name: Maria Zozaya

Institutional affiliation: CIDEHUS (Interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Humanities), Evora University, Portugal

E-mail address: mzosayam@uevora.pt

Paper proposal:

-Title: “Congressman in Sociability Spaces: Informal Ways to do Politics in XIXth Century Spain”.

-Section: “Parliaments and political culture”.

-Description:

In Spain, after the short experience of the 1812 Liberal Constitution, began the new political period of Liberalism in the 1830's. In 1833 Ferdinand the VIIth died and began the Constitutional Monarchy with the Queen Isabel II. The parliament with the Camera of Commons was the new space to deal with public affairs, politics and public sphere. But in my opinion the Parliament was not the exclusive neither the more important place to do politics for the MP's. I consider that gentleman's clubs and different associations of the gentlemanly capitalism played a very important role in that political adaptation. It was a part of the transformation process from Ancient Regime to Liberalism. Among the different ways for adapting to the new system, here we study the sociability spaces as places where the members of parliament could develop politics in an informal way. Spanish Casinos were a place to do networks between MP's, to speak about politics (even when it was banned) and also the place to take political decisions. A gentleman's Club was the ideal place to begin such deals in a casual way, try to reach an agreement and arrange compromises which afterwards could appear as an official deal in the parliament. To summarize, here we study the links between Casinos and parliamentarians in XIXth Century in Spain.