

The Prince and the Church in Renaissance Europe: Princely Acts as Sources for Ecclesiastical History

International Conference of the ANR AcRoNavarre project, Madrid, Casa de Velázquez, 14-15 November 2019

Religious history of the Renaissance has, without a doubt, been one of the fields of predilection of historians in recent decades. Various sources have been used to develop the field (registers/proceedings of ecclesiastical institutions, of tribunals and of urban institutions; notarial registers; correspondences of princes and of their representatives, those of cities, of bourgeois and of theologians, diaries and memoirs of contemporaries; theological treaties; etc.).

In the framework of the AcRoNavarre (*Actes royaux de Navarre, 1484-1594*) project funded by the *Agence nationale de la Recherche* (2017-2020), this conference invites scholars to work on a type of source which is indispensable for the study of socio-political aspects of religious history in Renaissance Europe: princely acts. Edicts of pacification issued by sovereigns and deliberations of representative assemblies (estates generals, diets etc.) placed under the authority of the prince have indeed been extensively used in works dealing with religious conflicts of the 16th century, however these key documents constitute only a small share of official decisions taken by the prince. Acts formalizing princely decisions are numerous and of a great interest for all denominations of the Reformation era.

Coordinated by the *Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour* and the *Casa de Velázquez*, this conference proposes to draw upon of the wealth of acts (ordinances, letters of commission, confirmation, confiscation, creation, finances, restoration, provision, protection, etc.) around three correlated axes:

- ***Princely intervention in the ecclesiastical realm***: this axis is about the acts through which the temporal power weighed on the institutional and financial structures of Churches, by modifying, diminishing or strengthening their prerogatives, by suppressing them or creating new ones, sometimes by ordinances, a new type of regulatory act. In which contexts do these interventions occur? What is the nature of the interventions? What are the instruments of intervention? What are the goals and consequences of the interventions?
- ***Clergymen in the service of the prince***: this axis is dedicated to acts in which the temporal power grants missions to clergymen for both interior politics and foreign affairs. What is the place of these missions in the clergymen's careers? How are the clergymen chosen, evaluated, gratified or sanctioned? How do they carry out their missions?
- ***The good deeds of the prince***: this axis develops a reflection on acts issued by the prince to help the sick, the poor, as well as widows, orphans, travelers, etc. What criteria are used to grant help? What are the main categories of beneficiaries? What is the timeline and the geography if this charity? How does this charity articulate with the charity administered by churches?

Taking into account other sources according to the topics studied and considering recent historiography, the exploration of acts in these three axes will enhance our knowledge of the relationship between the prince and the churches at the time of the Reformation.

Paper proposals (including a title, the name of the axis, an abstract of no more than 250 words and a short biography) should be sent by **31 May 2019** at the latest to [alvaro.adot @ casadevelazquez.org](mailto:alvaro.adot@casadevelazquez.org) AND to [denes.harai @ univ-pau.fr](mailto:denes.harai@univ-pau.fr).

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