



**CALL FOR PAPERS
SEPTEMBER 2016**

**I INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN MODERN AND
CONTEMPORARY SPAIN (19th to 21st centuries)**

This international congress on political corruption in modern and contemporary Spain (19th to 21st centuries) is an initiative of the **Parliamentarism History Group –PHG– (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**, which has in recent years been working on this topic from innovative and transnational perspectives.

The PHG is seeking to analyse political corruption through different scientific disciplines and beyond present-day and institutional politics. The history of corruption is a topical subject right now, with constant scandals setting the political agenda and filling the pages of newspapers. But such scourges of our society are not new malpractices. They are rooted far back in time. For instance, during early liberalism and the implementation of parliamentary assemblies, such conducts acquired new meanings. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, major social, cultural and political changes redefined the public and private spheres, and the principles and ideas of virtue and political correctness.

We believe that political corruption should be analysed from a broad chronological and territorial perspective, i.e. by taking a careful look at the changes in the meaning of corruption from a standpoint that integrates not only the attitude of corrupt people, but also the often forgotten history of their strategies.

This includes the changing and not always clear boundaries of malpractices, and the emergence of public and critical consciousness of such behaviours. In other words, we encourage a revision of both old and new forms of modern political corruption in an inclusive scientific environment. This field is therefore open to examination from diverse disciplines and is suitable for the comparison of different international realities in order to examine the nature and singularity of each case.

So, the PHG is inviting Hispanists from modern and contemporary history, political science, law and economic history to consider these issues at the first international congress on political corruption in modern and contemporary Spain (19th to 21st centuries), which is going to be held on **14 and 15 December 2017** at the **Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria in Barcelona**.

The meeting will begin by introducing four main areas of analysis. Papers that address at least one of these topics will be welcome. Meanwhile, any other views related to modern and contemporary political corruption in Spain are also encouraged for submittal.

1- The concept of corruption

What we mean by this is our interest in examining the ideological bases that have sustained the concept of corruption in each historical period. Analysis of language and political speeches could shed light on the meanings adopted by this phenomenon in each era. The reasoning behind condemnation or approval of a certain political practice may also help to better define the political semantics of corruption.

2- Corruption and scandals: the changing boundaries between public and private spaces

The impact of scandals on public opinion deserves special attention. The different methods of condemnation and the active role of the media, literature, theatre and cinema in the formation of discursive hegemonies will be considered. The main aim is to revise whether old practices that were censured in the public and private spheres have changed or not. We also aim to examine the influence and social impact of the media in the assumption or rejection of new social models.

3- Parliamentary struggle against electoral fraud and political corruption

The purpose of this topic is to understand the role played by parliaments in the pursuit of electoral fraud and political corruption. By analysing parliamentary debates, commissions of inquiry and laws we aim to highlight the role of the most active political groups in exposing fraud and the effectiveness of the measures that were approved.

4- Corruption in power and public administration

Within this field the idea is to extend the debate on corruption to the most relevant political institutions of the State: Crown, governments, military and ministries, among others. Local administrations –town and provincial councils, etc.- also require special attention. Were some levels of the administration more inclined towards corruption than others? We encourage the consideration of such fields as property speculation, the awarding of public services or works -road and rail networks, etc. -, monopolies, military supplies, tax collection and others, taking into account central government and local administrations and their connection with the party system and patronage.

Proposals should be submitted by 27 January 2017 at the latest. Proposals should include a title and an abstract of the main ideas –no more than 300 words-, as well as the name of the author(s), their occupational status, the institution(s) to which they belong, their e-mail address and a short CV. Proposals should be written in English, French, Spanish or Catalan. Please send proposals to:

congres.internacional.corrupcio@uab.cat

After the deadline, the organizing committee will consider the proposals received in terms of their quality and historiographic interest. The verdict will be announced by spring 2017. Authors whose proposals have been accepted will be asked to submit a written draft of their paper by October 2017. A registration fee of 35 euros will be required, 25 euros for those who present a communication. The details will be specified in this second announcement.

Further information at:

<http://grupsderecerca.uab.cat/ghp/content/congr%C3%A9s-internacional-corrupci%C3%B3-pol%C3%ADtica>

Scientific Committee:

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This Congress is included in the activities of the network 'International Scientific Coordination Network (GDRI) Politics & Corruption'.

This Congress is sponsored by the memory programmes' commissioner of Barcelona city council.