

International Conference X MUSPRES

Towards a history of music criticism in Spain

Universidad de Almería (April 28 – 30, 2022)

Call for papers

Music criticism as an object of study in Spanish musicology began in the 90s. However, its most remarkable development has taken place in the last decade, coinciding with the massive digitization of press sources.

The emergence of music criticism in the Spanish press occurred in the second half of the 18th century, associated with the birth of the first periodicals and public opinion. In the following century, known as "the civilization of the newspaper", the first specialized magazines appeared and the figure of the music critic was professionalized in our country. The press as a mass medium in Spain coincided with the twentieth century. During the first decades music criticism lived through one of its golden ages, with the presence of great figures of music journalism. After the Spanish Civil War and the early Francoism (the 1940s), it was particularly ideologically conditioned by the intervention of the State. Already in the 80s and 90s of the 20th century, music criticism was revitalized before the diversification of urban popular music. However, at the dawn of the 21st century it plunged into a deep crisis, motivated by the collapse of the recording industry and the over-information and easy access to music provided by the internet. Currently, the digital age has revolutionized the scene of journalism and music criticism, posing new challenges that involve an adaptation of the critic's activity to new information channels.

This conference aims to offer a framework for exchange and debate on the history of music criticism in Spain published in the press, as an essential source of musicological research to learn about our musical past.

In particular, it aspires to host research proposals helping to elucidate stages, contexts, discourses, personalities, events and transfer processes in the history of music criticism, still pending for the Spanish case.

We accept proposals based on historical and current hemerographic sources on music criticism in Spain, linked -although not exclusively- to the following topics:

- Currents, approaches and historiography of music criticism in Spain
- Critical reception of certain composers and works premiered in Spain, as well as of specific periods, styles, genres and musical practices
- Unexplored visions around the production of recognized music critics and the recovery of figures and signatures
- Analysis of the journalistic discourse used in Spanish music criticism in specific periods
- Relationship of music criticism with other related disciplines (literary, theatre, fine arts, cinematographic criticism, ...)
- Music criticism in Spain and gender studies: construction and dissemination of stereotypes. Topics, media and speeches written by women
- Amateurism, intrusion and professionalization of the music critic
- Music criticism in specialized and general press in the geographical, economic, political and ideological peripheries
- Music criticism in a specific journalistic headline, including the non-specialized press
- Crisis in music criticism in the 21st century: new communication channels
- Issues under debate in current music criticism and redefinition of the critic's work and the role of the public in Spain
- Travels, exchanges and transfers of critics, themes and speeches with Europe and America

Communications will be 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for debate. Proposals should include a **summary of 300 to 500 words**, accompanied by a **short CV**.

The languages admitted in this conference are Spanish and English. Please send your proposal to muspres@gmail.com by **15 February 2022** using this [form](#). The scientific committee will communicate the results by the end of February 2022 and those interested will be informed immediately. The registration will be then open to those participants with a communication. The organization of the conference will accept the presentation of remote communications, through digital platforms.