





Call for Papers | Special Issue: Nobility and Social Hierarchies, 15th to 19th Centuries

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What was nobility? Far from being a monolithic status group, recent historiography has emphasized the many forms nobility could assume in Europe and the New World throughout history. What social role did aristocrats play? How did this role transform when he crossed the Atlantic to rule an overseas settlement? Which were the particularities of provincial nobilities, and how did neoeuropean elites adapt this model in overseas empires? Wealth, purity of blood, honor: what makes the nobility noble? How did gender expectations entail different models of nobility for men and women? How could a plebeian become noble? What role the monarchy played in all this? How were the nobility and social hierarchies conceptualized after the Age of Revolutions?

To contribute to the debate on these matters, this dossier intends to gather articles which deal with nobility, social hierarchies and the different ways of ennoblement from the beginning of European overseas expansion in the fifteenth-century to the fall of the Brazilian monarchy and the Spanish overseas empire in the late nineteenth-century, ranging from Europe to all its overseas possessions in America, Africa and Asia. Sought after subjects include – but are not restricted to - biographical analysis of individual nobles, strategies of ennoblement, ennobling offices, military orders and theoretical approaches of this matter. Reviews of books that deal with these themes are also wanted.

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