

Black Africans in Aragonese Festivals: The Case of Zaragoza

A Workshop
with Maria Czepiel

BADEMS

the cultural history
of the Black african diaspora
in early modern Spain



4 June 2026



11:30-13:30



Teams/Edifici B, Facultat d'Econòmiques,
B3b/-104 & B3b/-106



Diana Berruezo-Sánchez

As part of her visit to BADEMS from 17 May to 17 June, Maria Czepiel will present her ongoing research on the presence and representation of Black Africans in festivals and public celebrations in Aragon, with a particular focus on Zaragoza. This session will explore how Black men and women appeared in civic and religious festivities, the roles they played in processions, dances, music, and theatrical performances, and what these celebrations can tell us about Black presence and racial dynamics in early modern Iberia. By looking closely at the case of Zaragoza, Maria's work sheds light on the important contributions of Black communities to urban life and performance traditions. This session offers an opportunity to discuss new archival findings and broader questions about race, visibility, and cultural participation in early modern Spain.



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