



24-26 June 2026

UNICA RECTORS' SEMINAR

**“Bridging Continents -
University leadership for transformative
Euro-Latin American collaboration”**

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS & CHAIRS

(in order of appearance)

CARMELO GARCÍA PÉREZ | RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ



Dr. Carmelo García Pérez holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration (specialised in Economy) and a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Alcalá. He is currently a full professor in the area of Quantitative Methods for Economy and Business within the Department of Economics.

At the University of Alcalá, he has held positions as Secretary of the School of Business Studies (1995-2006), Director of the Guadalajara Campus (2006-2008), Vice President of Teaching and Students (2008-2010), Vice President of Students and Sports (2010-2012), Vice President of the Guadalajara Campus (2014-2018), Vice President of the Guadalajara Campus and Institutional Relations (2018-2022) and Vice President of the Guadalajara Campus (2022-2026) and has been Chair of the Teaching and Regulations Committees.

From June 2012 to March 2014, on temporary assignment, he served as General Deputy for Economic Analysis and Forecasts in the Directorate of the Office of International Economic Analysis at the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Dirección General de Análisis Macroeconómico y Economía Internacional del Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad). During that same period of time, he served as Spain's Chief Delegate to OCDE (Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos) in the NAEC process (New Approaches to Economic Challenges) and on the namesake experts group invested on designing new approaches to the economic policy studies and recommendations issued by this international organisation. During his time at Spain's Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, he also served as Advisor to the Insurance Compensation Consortium (Consortio de Compensación de Seguros).

He has also led and participated in various research projects, as well as teaching innovation projects for the adaptation of learning and teaching methodology to the European Higher Education Area. He is the author of several national and international scientific articles related mainly to studying and measuring poverty and inequality levels, as well as the Modeling the Personal Income Distribution. He has been a Visiting Trainee and Research Scholar at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

SORIN COSTREIE | PRESIDENT OF UNICA



Sorin Costreie was elected to the position of President of UNICA in June 2023. He was previously Vice-Rector for Public Relations and University Networks (2019-2024) and Vice-Rector for International Relations of the *University of Bucharest* (2017-2019). In between, he was Adviser to the Minister and State Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. He was also State Advisor to the Prime-Minister for Education and Research from 2020 to 2023.

He is Associate Professor at the Department of Theoretical Philosophy, *University of Bucharest* and holds a PhD in Philosophy.

He was awarded several scholarships and fellowships to study for extended periods in Canada, United States, Germany, Spain and Italy.

He is member of various professional associations, and since 2014 he is member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of Analytic Philosophy.

JOSEP M. GARRELL | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA)



In 2012, **Josep M. Garrell** was appointed Rector of Ramon Llull University, where he went on to serve a second four-year term in (2016-2020) and a third two-year term (2020-2022). In 2015, he was appointed as a member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), whom he also at the EUA Council and General Assembly from 2016 to 2019.

Prior to his terms as rector, he held several leadership positions at Ramon Llull University, such as Secretary of the Research Commission (1998-2002), Delegate of the Rector for ICT (2000-2002), Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation (2002-2010), Secretary General (2006-2010) and Vice-Rector for University Policy (2010-2012).

Professor Garrell holds a Doctorate in Electronic Engineering from Ramon Llull University. As a faculty member and researcher at Ramon Llull University (URL), he specialized in artificial intelligence and machine learning. He co-founded the Intelligent Systems Investigation Group at the university's La Salle campus and conducted research at Carnegie's Mellon University's Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center.

FRANZ DIETER HENSEL RIVEROS | VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BUCARAMANGA



Academic Vice Rector of UNAB, political scientist and historian from the University of the Andes, holder of a Master's degree in Anthropology from the same institution, and a PhD in History from the University of Texas (United States).

Between 2016 and 2020, **Franz Dieter Hensel Riveros** served as Academic Director of the University of Rosario, where he led the design and implementation of two new academic areas: the Faculty of Creation and the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology. He also contributed to the development of multiple academic programs across various formats, promoted the internationalization of the curriculum, participated in the leadership team responsible for national and international quality accreditation processes, and led the revision of the Institutional Educational Project (PEI).

In addition, he designed and launched the Pedagogical Innovation and Faculty Development System and established a scholarship program for teaching and research fellowships.

Among the distinctions and scholarships he has received are: Member of the Executive Committee of the Fulbright Commission; Visiting Research Associate at the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford; and research fellowships from J. William Fulbright, the University of Texas, the University of Turin, and Colciencias.

**ZEYNEP KAYACIK | DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES,
ANKARA UNIVERSITY**



Zeynep Kayacik is a Turkish scholar specializing in Latin American studies, Hispanic studies, migration, cultural representation, and Turkey–Latin America relations. She serves as Director of the Centre for Latin American Studies (LAMER) and is a faculty member affiliated with Ankara University's Latin American Studies and Spanish Studies programs. She also holds a leadership role in the university's M.A. Program in Latin American Studies.

Her academic work focuses on the historical, cultural, and political connections between Turkey and Latin America. Her research examines themes such as Ottoman and Turkish migration to Latin America, representations of Turkish identity in Latin American literature, intercultural relations, and the development of Turkey's engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean.

As Director of LAMER, Kayacik has played a leading role in expanding Ankara University's academic partnerships with institutions across Latin America and in promoting interdisciplinary research on the region. Under her leadership, the center has strengthened its international cooperation network and contributed significantly to scholarly publications in Turkish, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

Among her recent scholarly contributions is the chapter “Turkey and Latin America: More Than a Century of Bilateral Relations” (2025), which analyzes the evolution of Turkey–Latin America relations within the framework of Turkey's multidimensional foreign policy. She has also published research on Ottoman migration to Latin America and on literary representations of Turkish communities in the region.

**FRÉDÉRIC LOUAULT | CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE D'ÉTUDE
DES AMÉRIQUES (AMERICAS), UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, VICE-PRESIDENT OF
THE OBSERVATOIRE POLITIQUE DE L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAÏBES OF
SCIENCES PO PARIS (OPALC - SCIENCES PO)**



Frédéric Louault is Professor of Political Science at the Université libre de Bruxelles, codirector of the *Centre d'étude des Amériques (AmericaS)*. His research focuses on democracy, elections and political participation in Latin America. He's studying electoral processes combining qualitative (interviews, observations) and quantitative (surveys) approaches. He is also interested in unconventional vectors of politicization: sport, music and other artistic practices, etc. Visiting professor at several universities (in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, France), he is also vice-president of the *Observatoire Politique de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes* de Sciences Po Paris (OPALC - Sciences Po, France).

At ULB, he chairs the Working Group on Latin America within the Council on International Relations. He has also served as vice-Dean for International Relations in the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Director of the *Centre d'étude de la vie politique (Cevipol)*, and Director of the *Maison des Sciences humaines (MSH)*.

Before joining ULB, Frédéric Louault worked for Sciences Po Paris, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble and the Institut des Hautes Etudes de l'Amérique latine (IHEAL - Sorbonne Nouvelle). He's teaching Political sociology, Political science research methods, and Comparative politics. He also teaches specialized courses on Latin American politics and Brazilian politics.

**KSENIJA VIDMAR HORVAT | VICE-RECTOR FOR STUDY AND STUDENT S-AFFAIRS,
UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA AND MEMBER OF THE UNICA STEERING COMMITTEE**



Ksenija Vidmar Horvat is full professor of the Sociology of Culture at the Faculty of Arts, *University of Ljubljana*. She studied comparative literature and the sociology of culture (BA, 1991) and received her Master's Degree (1994) and PhD (2000) at the *University of California Davis, USA*.

She has coordinated several national and international research projects, and acted as member, chair or co-chair at various committees and faculty posts. She was awarded the *Jean Monnet professorship* in 2012, and since 2015 has coordinated the national research program *The social contract in the 21st century*. Her most recent research is on democratic citizenship and post-Covid public sphere.

She is a member of the editorial boards of numerous international journals in the field of sociology and cultural theory, author of several monographs (with translations into English and Croat), and editor of a number of translations of social sciences/humanities books into Slovene.

Currently, she serves as Vice-Rector for study and student affairs at *University of Ljubljana*.

CAPUCINE BOIDIN | VICE RECTOR FOR RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY SORBONNE-NOUVELLE



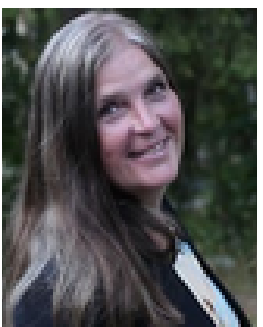
Capucine Boidin is full Professor in Latin American anthropology at Sorbonne Nouvelle in IHEAL (Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique latine) and taught Guarani language at INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales) during 15 years, from 2004 until 2019. She was the director of IHEAL from 2019 to 2022. She's currently vice-rector research of Université Sorbonne Nouvelle (2023-).

She wrote her phd and first book on mestizaje, gender and war's memories in Paraguay (*Guerre et métissage au Paraguay*).

She engaged discussion with postcolonial theories on hybridity (*Atlantique noir, une polyphonie de perspectives*) and participated to decolonial theories in France (*dossier Le tournant décolonial et la philosophie de la libération* in the journal *Cahiers des Amériques latines*) and *Penser avec les études décoloniales d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes* in 2026.

From 2011 until 2016 she coordinated a project funded by ANR and called LANGAS General languages from South America (Quechua, aimara, guarani, tupi, XIX-XVI). In 2017 she defended her habilitation with a manuscript called *Guarani words of power, power of guaraní words (XIX-XVI and XVI-XIX)*, published at Presses de l'INALCO in 2025.

**RAKEL ÖSTERBERG | PROFESSOR AND ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE OF STOCKHOLM
UNIVERSITY FOR THE ACADEMIC COLLABORATION CHILE SWEDEN (ACCESS)
NETWORK**



Rakel Österberg serves as Associate Professor and researcher in Spanish linguistics at the Department of Romance Studies and Classics at Stockholm University. She teaches courses of Spanish and Education. A high proportion of the students are pre-service teachers, and many study the bachelor program of Latin American studies. International exchanges are a part of her work, and she has participated in teacher and research exchanges within the framework of CIVIS (Marocco) and similar (Cuba). More recent and connected to the present project, is her work on migration in the academic collaboration Chile Sweden (ACCESS), where she conducts research on the diasporas of Spanish heritage language speakers in Sweden.

CHRISTIAN LERMINIAUX | DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT INSTITUTE PSL - UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO, PSL – PARIS SCIENCE ET LETTRES UNIVERSITY



Christian Lermينياux (PhD in atomic Physics, University Pierre et Marie Curie) is the French Director of the joint institute between PSL University and the University of Sao Paulo (USP) . He has been heading Chimie ParisTech, France's leading institute in chemistry from November 2014 till April 2026.

As such he has been a member of the board of PSL Research University, one of the world's top research universities. He is Vice-Chair of the governing board of the European Alliance EELISA . Former president of Cdefi (2011/14), he is also President of ParisTech.

He managed the University of Technology of Troyes in France (2004/2014).

He has been working for the CEA-LETI (2003/2004) as Program Director for Optics and Microsystems, and for Corning from 1989 to 2003 where he hold multiple positions, e.g.: Director Amplifier Research and Technology, Core Director Optical Technologies and Device Physics.

ALUISIO SEGURADO | RECTOR, UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO



Aluisio Segurado graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at USP in 1980. That same year, he volunteered at the Advanced Campus Program in Marabá, Pará, an experience that sparked his interest in infectious diseases and in the relationship between health, social determinants, and the environment. After graduation, he also attended several courses in Social Sciences at USP's Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences, while simultaneously pursuing his residency in Infectious and Parasitic Diseases at the Hospital das Clínicas of the Faculty of Medicine. This experience provided him with a humanistic perspective that continues to guide his work.

He joined the Department of Tropical Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine as a faculty member in 1983, initially serving as a Teaching Assistant. He later became coordinator of the Advanced Campus Project. From the early stages of the HIV epidemic in Brazil, he played an active role in addressing the crisis, balancing patient care with scientific research and social responsibility. He completed his master's and doctoral degrees, as well as international training periods, including time in Japan, building an academic career distinguished by scientific production and by the integration of research and medical practice in the care of people living with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

He has supervised numerous master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral researchers. He obtained his *Livre-Docência* (habilitation degree) in 2001, completed postdoctoral training abroad, and was appointed Full Professor at USP's Faculty of Medicine in 2012. Throughout his career, he has held several leadership positions at the Faculty of Medicine, Hospital das Clínicas, and the University. He served as Department Chair, Coordinator of Medical Residency Programs, President of the Graduate Studies Committee and the International Relations Committee at the Faculty of Medicine, Executive Vice-Rector for International Relations, the first Coordinator of the Office for Academic Performance Indicators Management, and USP Provost for Undergraduate Studies. In these roles, he improved academic processes, expanded national and international partnerships, and contributed to the modernization of university administration.

His trajectory combines strong technical expertise with strategic institutional experience. He played a decisive role as Director of the Central Institute of Hospital das Clínicas during the COVID-19 pandemic, coordinating responses to one of the greatest public health challenges of recent history. With a career that integrates academic excellence, management experience, and social commitment, he has established himself as a leading figure in infectious diseases and public health, higher education, and institutional governance, representing the convergence of medical training, cutting-edge research, university leadership, and civic responsibility.

JULIO CAÑERO SERRANO | UNICA VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ



Julio Cañero Serrano is an Associate Professor and former Vice Rector for International Relations at the University of Alcalá. His research focuses on the study of the culture, politics, and society of the United States of America, with an emphasis on the literary and linguistic traditions of the Latino population in that country.

He is the director of the Benjamin Franklin Collection (2013) and the academic journal REDEN (2019), both belonging to the Research Institute in American Studies “Benjamin Franklin.” In the field of knowledge transfer, he has participated in various media as a specialist in North American Studies.

ISMAEL GÓMEZ | DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL DIGITAL STRATEGY, ORGANIZATION OF IBERO AMERICAN STATES (OEI)



Ismael Gómez has extensive experience in digitization projects across various countries, recently focusing on NFT publications and the use of blockchain technology. With an academic background in Philosophy, he holds a Master's degree in Information and Communication Technology Applied to Education and Training from the Autonomous University of Madrid and another from the University of Salamanca. He is also an entrepreneur in the publishing world and the author of several articles related to technology and digitization. Since 2023, he has served as the Director of Global Digital Strategy at the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI).

TOMÁS POVEDA ORTEGA | VICE PRESIDENT FOR EMEA, UNIVERSITY OF SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA



Tomás Poveda Ortega is a Spanish executive, lawyer, and international relations specialist with extensive experience in public diplomacy, corporate affairs, and higher education governance. He currently serves as Vice President for EMEA and is a board member of the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola (USIL), where he contributes to the institution's international strategy and development.

He has held senior leadership positions in both the public and private sectors. In Spain, he served as Director General of Casa de América, an institution dedicated to strengthening cultural, political, and economic ties between Spain and Latin America.

He has also worked in government affairs and institutional relations roles for multinational companies such as General Electric and Genworth Financial, focusing on Europe, the United States, and Latin America.

Poveda Ortega has been actively involved in transatlantic academic and diplomatic initiatives, with a strong emphasis on EU–Latin America relations, public diplomacy, and international cooperation. He has also contributed as a lecturer and speaker at various universities and international forums across Europe and the Americas.

He holds a degree in Law from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a Master's degree in European Law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, along with additional executive training in public sector leadership and corporate communication.

MANUELA APARÍCIO | PRO-RECTOR FOR PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION, NOVA UNIVERSITY LISBON



Manuela Aparicio previously served as Deputy Director for Education at NOVA Information Management School (NOVA IMS), part of NOVA University Lisbon. She holds a PhD in Information Management from NOVA University Lisbon. Her research interests include education and pedagogical innovation, with a particular focus on the use of systems in teaching and learning, and on exploring student success in these contexts. She has proposed two distinct business models for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Her research also investigates the impact of information systems on digital transformation and value creation within organizations.

Her work has been published in leading journals such as *Information & Management*, *Journal of Educational Technology & Society*, *Internet and Higher Education*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, and *Journal of Innovation & Knowledge*, among others.

Manuela Aparicio has been ranked among the Top 2% of the world's most influential scientists in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 by Stanford University. She is a member of the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), affiliated with the EuroSIGDOC European chapter, and with ACM Women. In 2023, she received the international Diana Award/ACM SigDOC'23.

LAURA ARAGONÉS MOLINA | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COORDINATOR OF THE LL.M. PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ



Laura Aragonés Molina is an Assistant Professor in Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Alcalá.

She is also the Academic Coordinator of the Master's Degree in International Protection of Human Rights at the same university, where she contributes to teaching, research, and program coordination in the field of international law and human rights.

Her academic work focuses on public international law, international human rights protection, and international dispute settlement mechanisms.

She has extensive experience teaching courses such as International Law and EU Law in both Spanish and English within undergraduate and postgraduate programs at the Faculty of Law. Aragonés Molina is actively involved in research and academic networks in international law and human rights. She has participated in and coordinated academic events, including international conferences and competitions in international litigation, particularly those simulating proceedings before international courts.

She has also contributed to research and publications in the field of international legal mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and she is engaged in academic cooperation projects and institutional development within her area of specialization.

IRUNE AGUIRREZÁBAL | DIRECTOR, IBERO-AMERICAN PROGRAMME IN HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND EQUALITY, ORGANIZATION OF IBERO-AMERICAN STATES



An international relations professional, **Irune Aguirrezábal** has dedicated more than 25 years to global and European affairs, holding positions of political, strategic, and managerial responsibility in multicultural environments within the Government of Spain, the Basque Government, the United Nations (UNODC, UN Women, and IOM), and civil society organizations. Her work has spanned Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa.

Her career has been distinguished by the development of strategic and policy proposals through alliances and synergies across disciplines and organizations to

advance women's empowerment and gender-equal democracy, comprehensive migration management, the global campaign to establish the International Criminal Court, and the nexus between counterterrorism and the protection of human rights. Building on this experience and her interdisciplinary background in law, political science, and international relations, she earned a PhD in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies in 2020 with a dissertation entitled "Gender-Equal Democracy in Latin America: Three Explanatory Dimensions."

MANUEL PEDRO DA CRUZ BAGANHA | ORGANIZACIÓN IBEROAMERICANA DE SEGURIDAD SOCIAL



Manuel Pedro da Cruz Baganha is a Advisor at the Ibero-American Social Security Organization.

Retired Professor from the Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon, Portugal. He served as Chairman of the Portuguese Social Security Reserve Fund with assets exceeding €40 billion.

Among other positions, he served as Secretary of State for the Budget, Secretary of State for the Treasury and Finance, and Secretary of State for Fiscal Affairs in Portugal.

He also represented Portugal on the Economic and Financial Committee of the European Union. He holds a degree in Economics from the University of Porto, an MBA from Nova School of Business and Economics, and a PhD in Decision Sciences from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

At the Nova School of Business and Economics, in addition to being a Professor, he served as Executive Director of Nova Fórum (Executive Education Institute), MBA Director, Member of the Executive Board, Vice-President of the Scientific Council and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Management.

He has been a visiting scholar in different universities, like The Wharton School and Dartmouth College, participated in numerous conferences and has published in international scientific journals.

In addition, he has maintained an extensive consulting practice for public organizations, like European Commission, International Labor Office, the main Portuguese banks and private companies in diverse areas as budgetary policy and management, energy markets regulation, education and research financing, financial policy and management of banks and supply chain management. In the area of cooperation he contributes to the development of social security reserve funds in the African Portuguese Speaking Countries.

VINICIUS MARIANO DE CARVALHO | PROFESSOR OF BRAZILIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON



Dr Vinicius Mariano de Carvalho was born in Barra Mansa, Brazil. He received his PhD from the University of Passau, Germany, and his undergraduate and MA degrees from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil.

He joined King's in 2014 and before he was Associate Professor for Brazilian Studies at Aarhus University (2008-2014), Denmark, where he was also Director of the Latin American Centre (2012-2014). Vinicius was a Lieutenant in the Brazilian Army (2007-2008), serving in the Military Technical Corps.

At King's, Vinicius has served as a Vice Dean (International) for the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy, and director of King's Brazil Institute between 2020 and 2022.

At the War Studies Department, he is the Convener of the MA in Strategic Communications and teaches UG modules on Latin America issues.

Vinicius is the Circle U. Academic Chair Programme Coordinator. He has played an active role contributing to the field of Brazilian studies, founding and editing *Brasiliana – Journal for Brazilian Studies* and as Editor of the Anthem Brazilian Studies Series.

In 2022, Vinicius created the Observatory of Democracy in Latin America (KODLA). He is also an Associate Researcher at the Centre for Strategic Studies of the Brazilian Navy. Parallel to his academic career, Vinicius is a music conductor and currently directs the King's Brazil Ensemble.

CASTELLAR GRANADOS | COORDINATOR OF THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT, FUNDACIÓN CAROLINA



Castellar Granados is Coordinator of the Research and Analysis Department at Fundación Carolina. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Instituto de Iberoamérica, Universidad de Salamanca, and specialises in political attitudes and preferences, specifically the causes and consequences of political distrust in contexts of inequality, with a regional focus on Latin America. She uses a mixed-method approach that combines multilevel analyses of both experimental and observational data with in-depth interviews and extensive fieldwork. She has been a visiting researcher at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, United States) and the European University Institute (Florence, Italy).

Her work has been published in different peer-reviewed journals, such as *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Social Justice Research*, and *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.

CARLOS HERRERO | FRANKLIN INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ



Bachelor's Degree in History, **Carlos Herrero** holds a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Medieval History by the Universidad de Alcalá. He has participated in the European project CLIOHRES financed by UNESCO and the EU in the group "Frontiers and Identities" between 2005 and 2009. PhD candidate in North American Studies on the concept of Spain in North American travelers. He teaches in the Study Abroad in Spain Program. His interests focus on Cultural Studies, the creation of national identities, Travel Literature and Alterity Discourses throughout History.