From Tupinambá anthropophagi to ‘bloodthirsty Aztecs’ or ‘child-killing Incas’, American (human) sacrifices flooded the European imagination in the sixteenth century. In Europe, these images interacted with a heated debate about salvation, the Eucharist, and the role of sacrifice within Christianity. Far from being restricted to universities, monasteries or courts, this debate penetrated European societies at every level and informed the violent struggles of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

This conference will address the various ways in which images and discourses on American sacrificial practices impacted the religious debates taking place in Europe in the sixteenth century and, conversely, how these debates affected the perception and interpretation of American sacrifice. At the same time, it will examine the extent to which European conceptions of these sacrificial practices influenced projects and processes of Christian conversion.

This conference has been generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Front cover image: Luis Montero, The Funerals of Inca Atahualpa, 1867, Lima Art Museum

Back cover image: Aztec Priest Holding a Beating Heart, from Bernardino de Sahagún, La Historia Universal de las Cosas de Nueva España (“Florentine Codex”, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana)

This conference is open to the public with no charge.
THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2018

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
09.45 Alina Payne (Villa I Tatti / Harvard University)
10.00 Maria Berbara (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro)

THE CONCEPT OF SACRIFICE
AND THE PRE-HISPANIC WORLD
Chair: Alexander Nagel (Villa I Tatti / New York University)
09.45 Alina Payne (Villa I Tatti / Harvard University)

10.00 Maria Berbara (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro)

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10.00 Maria Berbara (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro)

10.15 Tom Cummins (Harvard University)
Images of Sacrifice in Peru: The Dead and Dying before and after European Arrival
10.45 Coffee break
11.00 Emilie Carreón Blaine (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Old World Christian Ritual and Sacrifice in the New World: Symbolization Processes in Sixteenth-Century Central Mexico
11.30 Patrick Hajovsky (Southwestern University)
The Luxury of Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of Luxury: Aztec Economies of Reciprocal Exchange
12.00 Discussion
13.00 Buffet lunch

SACRIFICE, CONVERSION, AND IDOLATRY
Chair: Carlo Taviani (Villa I Tatti)
10.15 Jens Baumgarten (Universidade Federal de São Paulo)
Idolatry and Conversion in the Portuguese Empire
10.45 Philippe Canguilhem (Université de Toulouse II)
Music as a Problematic Means of Conversion in the New World in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries
11.15 Coffee break
11.30 Adam Jasienski (SMU Meadows School of the Arts)
Images of Conversion and the Conversion of Images
12.00 Discussion
13.00 Buffet lunch

SACRIFICE AND MARTYRDOM
Chair: Elizabeth Cohen (Villa I Tatti / York University, Toronto)
14.30 Maria Berbara (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro)
Representation of Catholic and Protestant Martyrdoms during the European Wars of Religion: The Antarctic France as an Ambivalent Visual Repertoire
14.30 Carmen Fernández Salvador (Universidad San Francisco de Quito)
Prints Crossing Genres: Imaging Punishment, Sacrifice, and Martyrdom
15.00 Discussion
15.30 Coffee break
15.45 Anselm Schubert (Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Foreign Substances, Strange Representations: The Material Culture of the Eucharist in Early Modern Christianity
16.00 Byron Hamann (Ohio State University)
The Anthropology of Sacrifice and the Materiality of the Host
16.30 Stephanie Kirk (Washington University in St. Louis)
Global Circulations of Jesuit Relics: Martyrdom and the Materiality of the Sacred
17.00 Discussion
17.30 Coffee break

FRIDAY, 20 APRIL 2018

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