

AHGBI Visiting International Fellowship 2023-24

The University of Warwick was delighted to host Dr. Gáldrick de la Torre Ávalos this year as a Visiting International Fellow, collaborating with Dr. Rich Rabone on mutual areas of interest including: the poetry of Garcilaso de la Vega; the sociological context of early modern cultural production, and the role of literary academies within that; and the relationship between Latin and vernacular in early modern culture. The collaboration also extended beyond Warwick, allowing for participation in the international conference ‘New Perspectives on Garcilaso de la Vega/Nuevas perspectivas sobre Garcilaso de la Vega’, held at Balliol College, Oxford, where Dr. de la Torre Ávalos presented a cutting-edge overview of the sociological context for the composition of Garcilaso’s most famous poems, in a paper titled: ‘Garcilaso and Court Writers: A Sociological Approach to the Vernacular Poetic Panorama in 1530s Naples’.

The vast and fascinating cultural hub of Naples also provided the backdrop for two AHGBI Lectures given at Warwick. In the first, Dr. de la Torre Ávalos addressed the interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of the Renaissance on the topic of Garcilaso’s great predecessor Sannazaro and his pioneering *Arcadia* - a text which Garcilaso himself would famously and strikingly imitate - highlighting unnoticed aspects of Sannazaro’s correspondence and their implications for the context of the work’s first publication and its choice of dedicatee, in a paper titled ‘Sannazaro, Luigi d’Aragona, and the Socio-Political Context of the *Arcadia* (*editio princeps*, 1504)’. The second returned to Garcilaso’s own time, offering a study of courtly identity and its importance for the conception of the nature and function of literature in early modern Naples, in ‘Garcilaso y la identidad cortesana del poeta en la Nápoles de 1530’. A broader introduction to Sannazaro and his work has also been recorded as a contribution to the podcast series of the Society of Neo-Latin Studies.

Dr. de la Torre Ávalos has been a valued member of the Warwick community, both in Hispanic Studies and in the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance; we have been tremendously grateful to the AHGBI for making this collaboration possible, and we look forward to developing it further in future.