



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Mary Farrelly
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Film, Media and Visual Studies
Amount and year awarded:	€1,077 in 2020
Title of project:	Mothers Superior: Nuns as Maternal Figures in Spanish Popular Culture (1923 – 1936)

Summary of findings:

During my research trip to Madrid, Spain in November 2021 I accessed rare film and archival materials that have been key to developing my understanding of perceptions of nuns as mothers in the early decades of the last century. Through this work I have been able to:

1. create a comprehensive and interactive database of Spanish films and theatre productions featuring nuns in maternal roles throughout the 20th century that is now live and available here: <https://time.graphics/line/74141>
2. initiate a second digital humanities resource around mapping the role of nuns in the care of orphaned children in Madrid. While in Madrid I was able to visit the setting of the 1934 play *Madre Alegría*, the Institución Provincial de Puericultura de Madrid at 50 Calle O'Donnell. Turning around, 48 Calle O'Donnell is now Hospital Maternidad O'Donnell and directly across the street is Hospital Santa Cristina, all of these centres feature heavily in news articles criticising the treatment of orphans during the 1920s and again in the 1990s during the Niños robados scandal (Sor María Gómez Valbuena is known to have used these centres to facilitate illegal adoptions during the Francoist period and transition to democracy). I hope to create a map using both fictional and journalistic sources to digitally illustrate this history.
3. identify recurring tropes in representations of nun/child relationships on stage and screen and chart their development throughout the period of the Primo de Rivera dictatorship (1923- 1930) and Second Spanish Republic (1930 – 1936). This formed the basis of my presentations to the AHRC-funded network and reading group “Women, Religion, and Culture in Spain and Spanish America (1900-2000)” of which I am a member and my paper at the annual Conference of the Association of Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies in November 2021.
4. begin writing up an academic article for publication in the *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*.

Plans for continuing collaboration:

I hope to expand on the collaborative work begun during this research trip through an Erasmus Plus exchange at the University of Alcalá in 2022 to work with film historian, Ricardo Colmenero Martínez, on further developing this project.



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Published work and publication plans:

I plan to submit a journal article based on this research to the Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies in early 2022.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

I presented a draft of a video essay based on this research at the annual Conference of the Association of Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies in November 2021.



Collaborations and planned collaborations:

I hope to expand on the collaborative work begun during this research trip through an Erasmus Plus exchange at the University of Alcalá in 2022 to work with film historian, Ricardo Colmenero Martínez, on further developing this project.

Outreach and engagement activities:

An interactive database of Spanish films and theatre productions featuring nuns in maternal roles throughout the 20th century that is now live and available here: <https://time.graphics/line/74141>. A video essay to accompany the final academic article is also in production.



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