

Call for Papers - Kings & Queens 14

“Beyond the King: Diplomacy, Social Roles and Family Dynamics in Monarchies”

02 - 05 June 2025, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon (FLUL)

The Royal Studies Network and the Court Studies and Diplomacy Research Group, from the Centre for History of the University of Lisbon are delighted to launch a call for papers for our fourteenth annual Kings & Queens conference: *Beyond the King: Diplomacy, Social Roles and Family Dynamics in Monarchies*. The 2025 conference aims to remember Queen Leonor of Lancaster (1458-1525), on the 500th anniversary of her death. After ten years, the conference will be returning to Lisbon.

This conference seeks to explore the often-overlooked aspects of monarchical history by shifting the focus away from the sovereign and the traditional courtly studies. We aim to delve deeper into the broader social, diplomatic, and familial roles that have shaped monarchies across the world and throughout history.

Monarchies have been complex institutions that extend far beyond the figure of the king. This conference will explore the intricate web of relationships, duties, and influences that surround monarchies, highlighting the contributions of queens, consorts, heirs, and extended royal families. Additionally, we aim to explore the role of diplomacy in shaping and sustaining monarchies, as well as how these institutions have engaged with broader societal structures.

Presentations will be accepted in English. In keeping with the spirit of the Royal Studies Network, proposals may deal with diplomacy, social roles and family dynamics in monarchies in all times and places. We welcome submissions from professionals, postgraduate researchers, independent and early career scholars. While in-person presentations are preferred, the conference will be hybrid with online content, allowing for some degree of live streaming.

Papers should be 15/20 minutes in length. To propose a paper, please send a 250 word abstract, title and short cv to kq14lisbon@gmail.com

Proposals for panels should include a maximum of three papers and provide the same information.

The deadline for submissions is 15 December 2024. Please specify whether your presentation will be in person or online.

You should receive a notification of acceptance no later than 15 January 2025.

For more information about the conference, registration details, and updates, please visit the Royal Studies Network (<http://royalstudiesnetwork.org>) and the Centre for History (<http://chul.lettras.ulisboa.pt>) websites and social media platforms.

Organizing Committee:

Manuela Santos Silva (CH-ULisboa)

Maria Dávila (CH-ULisboa)

Inês Olaia (CH-ULisboa)

Elena Woodacre (U. Winchester / Founder of Royal Studies Network)

Possible Themes Include:

1. Diplomacy and International Relations:

- The role of royal consorts and family members in diplomatic negotiations.
- Marriages and treaties as political alliances and their impact on international relations.
- The influence of royal households on the development of diplomatic traditions and protocols.

2. Queenship and Female Agency:

- The political and social roles of queens, dowagers, and princesses.
- Female regency and governance in the absence or minority of a king.
- The public and private lives of royal women and their influence on monarchy.

3. Family Dynamics and Succession:

- The influence of family dynamics on succession crises and civil conflicts.
- The role of royal children and their upbringing in shaping the future of monarchies.
- Intrafamilial conflicts, alliances, and their impact on the stability of monarchies.

4. Court Culture and Society:

- The role of courtiers and advisors in shaping royal policies and decisions.
- The social structures within royal courts and their influence on governance.
- The intersection of monarchy with religion, culture, and societal norms.

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