



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Philosophy
and Cultural Heritage



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

FARE
RICERCA IN ITALIA

FRAMEWORK PER L'ATTRAZIONE E IL RAFFORZAMENTO
DELLE ECCELLENZE PER LA RICERCA IN ITALIA

**THE NEW
INSTITUTE**

Centre for Environmental
Humanities (NICHE)

at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice

April 20th, 2023

h. 2.00 p.m.

Aula Biral,

Malcanton-Marcorà

Organizers:

Jonathan Regier, Ca' Foscari University of Venice,
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

Pietro Daniel Omodeo, Ca' Foscari University of
Venice, Department of Philosophy and Cultural
Heritage

Max Planck Partner Group "The Water City" (Max
Planck Society / MPI for the History of Science -
Berlin)

ERC "EarlyModernCosmology" (Horizon 2020, GA
725883)

Project "EarlyGeoPraxis" (FARE, Italian Ministry of
University and Research)

For information and registration, please contact
Jonathan Regier (UniVe)

jonathan.regier@unive.it

Image: Nuremberg-Cortés map of Tenochtitlan, 1524.
Public domain.

Crisis and Change in Early Modernity:
Knowledge, Practice, Governance

**Nature and government of the
New World. From alternative
cosmographies to the transformation
of the Basin of Mexico.**

Omar Rodríguez

School of Engineering of the National
Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

In order to incorporate the New World within European conceptual and economic frameworks, a natural and political discourse that justified European hegemony was developed. But, at the same time, some alternative narratives and practices questioned this Eurocentric discourse. Authors such as Bartolomé de las Casas and Alonso de la Veracruz not only defended the ability of indigenous peoples to govern themselves, but also modified the hegemonic image of the world by transferring the central natural qualities to the Americas. These more positive interpretations were also applied in the case of the Valley of Mexico whose representations used to show a suitable water governance, similar to the depictions of the lagoon of Venice. This harmonious coexistence between Mexico city and its lakes was based on traditional indigenous knowledge, whose expertise was recognized by Spanish rulers. But with the turn of the 17th century, the balance was broken as urban dwellers developed new narratives and projects to drain the lakes to protect the city of Mexico by transforming the closed basin into an open valley.



Guest hosted by the ERC
EarlyModernCosmology GA 725883
and the FARE EarlyGeoPraxis
project ID R184WNSTWH