

PhD-topic Alberto Sevillano

The Influence of German Discourses on the Role of Museums and the Construction of National Identities in Sweden and Spain in the Late 19th Century

My research project aims to review and analyse the intellectual and political discourse on nationalism and national identity in Spain, Sweden and Germany at the end of 19th century. This discourse was related in each country to a state-building process as well as to a continuous (re)interpretative task of the past by historians, politicians and intellectuals. The research will thus describe the different ways in which this discourse is formulated in the public sphere namely through the creation of national museums (with interests ranging from fine arts to archaeology, natural sciences or history), the spread of testimonials published by travellers, the exchange of scholars and even a new international political propaganda. Common patterns and singularities will be examined.

The project will also analyse the role played by the emerging German empire in the last decades of the 19th century. In the Swedish case, it can be considered whether as the continuity or as the transformation of a historical borderland in the Baltic area with Sweden. Regarding Spain, a growing group of intellectuals tended to identify Germany with a leading and renovated power in Europe, especially after the *Desastre* of 1898, which meant not only the loss of the last colonies overseas but which also brought a new political and social climate in Spain. To what extent was this germanophile discourse present in the Swedish and Spanish societies and in their respective *intelligentsias*? Did it provoke any modification in their national conceptions?