



**Invitation from the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies
at the University of Copenhagen, to a Carsten Niebuhr Lecture
at the David Collection by Professor Maribel Fierro,
Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean – CSIC.**

**The lecture will take place at the museum on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022,
at 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

AL-ANDALUS (MUSLIM IBERIA), A PAST FOR THE PRESENT?

The name al-Andalus was given by the Muslims to the Iberian Peninsula (Iberia) when they entered it as conquerors in 711. The name became mostly associated with those territories that were under Muslim rule and given that such rule lasted longer in the southern region, this area is now known as Andalucía. On their part, the Jews living in the Iberian Peninsula called it Sefarad.

Many traces today remind the visitors of modern Spain and Portugal of the societies including Jews, Christians and Muslims that existed in the past. Such past has been approached in different ways. For example, it has given rise to compelling and long-lasting conceptions of al-Andalus as a lost paradise for Muslims all over the world; as the 'Golden Age' of Medieval Judaism; as the land of 'convivencia' where Jews, Christians and Muslims lived in mutual appreciation; as the heritage lost by the local Christians that had to be recovered in a process labelled 'Reconquista'

All these readings of the past carry a heavy weight for historians interested in the study of the history of al-Andalus. Drawing on my own experience as a scholar, I will give an overview of how al-Andalus has been imagined both in the past and in the present and what we gain and what we lose by making it a 'combat-concept'.

Best regards/on behalf of The Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies
at the University of Copenhagen. Space is limited, and reservations are therefore
on a first come, first served basis.

Please RSVP your attendance no later than Friday, September 9,
to Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen at jsp@hum.ku.dk

The lecturer and recipient of the Carsten Niebuhr prize, Maribel Fierro, is Research Professor at the Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean - CSIC - The Spanish National Research Council. Her research focuses on the political and intellectual history of the pre-modern Islamic West (al-Andalus and North Africa), on Islamic (Maliki) law and on the construction of orthodoxy in Islamic societies. Among other works, she is the author of 'Abd al-Mu'min. Mahdism and caliphate in the Islamic West (2021) and the editor of The Routledge Handbook on Muslim Iberia (2020).



THE DAVID COLLECTION

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