

## Renaissance and Reformation Renaissance et Réforme



### Santos Pérez, José Manuel, Ana Paula Megiani, and José Luis Ruiz-Peinado Alonso, eds. *Redes y circulación en Brasil durante la monarquía hispánica (1580–1640)*

James Nelson Novoa

Volume 45, Number 1, Winter 2022

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1094244ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33137/rr.v45i1.39139>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Iter Press

ISSN

0034-429X (print)

2293-7374 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Novoa, J. (2022). Review of [Santos Pérez, José Manuel, Ana Paula Megiani, and José Luis Ruiz-Peinado Alonso, eds. *Redes y circulación en Brasil durante la monarquía hispánica (1580–1640)*]. *Renaissance and Reformation / Renaissance et Réforme*, 45(1), 246–248. <https://doi.org/10.33137/rr.v45i1.39139>



**Santos Pérez, José Manuel, Ana Paula Megiani, and José Luis Ruiz-Peinado Alonso, eds.**

***Redes y circulación en Brasil durante la monarquía hispánica (1580–1640).***

Sílex universidad. Madrid: Sílex Ediciones, 2020. Pp. 538. ISBN 978-84-7737-552-4 (paperback) €25.

The period of the Iberian Union, during which Portugal was under the rule of the Hispanic Monarchy from 1580 to 1640, has increasingly interested historians from a number of perspectives. This unique and complex period in Iberian history has been submitted to growing scrutiny and research and, thanks to recent scholarship, it has been shown that although Portugal was under the yoke of Spain, the sixty-year span was one of innovation in various fields that was important for Portugal and its place in the world. This new collection of texts by a new generation of young, active, and vigorous scholars concentrates on one particular context in this puzzle that has often been overlooked when considering the period: that of Brazil and the Atlantic world. This book of fifteen chapters showcases innovative research conducted in archives throughout the world that hold an impressive variety of sources. It will surely serve to ground further research in a field that still has many surprises to yield.

In his introduction to the collection, one of the three editors of the book, the noted Spanish scholar José Manuel Santos Pérez, provides us with an overview of the scholarship of the last forty years (13–36). Following the groundbreaking work of members of the Annales school like Frederic Mauro and Fernand Braudel who brought critical attention to the Iberian Union, scholars such as Fernando Bouza Alvarez, Stuart Schwartz, Rafael Valladares, and Pedro Cardim have converted the systematic study of the period, its institutions, agents, and personalities into a field in its own right, showing how, far from a mere anomaly in Portuguese history, the domination of Portugal by the three Spanish Habsburg monarchs is just as much a part of its national history as that overseen by other dynasties. The decades that spanned the union of Spain and Portugal saw the arrival of the Tribunal of the Inquisition of Lisbon to Brazilian soil (1591–95, 1618–19, 1627–28), the creation of the fledgling Conselho da Índia (1604–14), and the Dutch occupation of northeastern Brazil (1630–54), all of which have had an impact on the *Estado do Brasil*, its institutions, and its lore.

The fifteen chapter in Spanish and Portuguese deal with the circulation of people, products, information, and networks between Portuguese America

and its rulers under the Hispanic Monarchy, and they do so from a variety of perspectives and disciplinary approaches. The chapters are divided into five parts and provide readers with a well-rounded holistic picture of the sheer complexity of a truly global age. By specifically engaging with the question of the circulation of people, objects, and knowledge, the collection considers problems of agency and mediation in a context in which the distinction between centre and periphery was often blurred. The works of these international scholars—namely, Maria Isabel de Siqueira, Helena Trinidad de Sá, Pablo Iglesias Magalhães, Lucia Furquim Xavier, Rafaela Franklin da Silva Lira, Pedro Puntoni, Pablo Cañón García, Jonaina Guimarães da Fonseca e Silva, Rodrigo Bonciani, José Luis Ruiz-Peinado Alonso, Kalina Vanderlei Silva, Sylvia Brandão Ramalho de Brito, Irene Maria Vicente Martín, Germán Adolfo Ocampo Sterling, José Carlos Vilardaga, Enrique Rodrigues-Moura, and Ana Paula Megiani—contribute to providing us with a vivid and engaging depiction of this often neglected subject.

The first part of the book, “Redes y circulación de oficiales y agentes de la administración. Redes e circulação de oficiais e agentes de administração” (95–174), takes up the question of the role of official intermediaries between Brazil and the Iberian world under the *Filipes* and the manifold problems of their roles at the institutional level, acquainting readers with many of these officials and their roles. The second part, “Redes de circulación de comerciantes. Movimientos en el sistema monetario. Redes e circulação de comerciantes. Movimientos no sistema monetário” (175–262), considers the circulation of merchants, products, and capital between both contexts and, in particular, their importance as go-betweens bringing together both worlds. The third part, “Redes misioneras y conexiones africanas. Redes missionais e conexões com a África” (265–312), deals with the problem of the propagation of the Catholic faith and the control of religious orthodoxy in a Spain that brought together Europe, Brazil, and Africa. The fourth part, “Redes y circulación desde una perspectiva regional. Entre la localidad y la globalidad. Redes y circulação em perspectiva regional. Do local ao global” (313–462), engages with networks and their interplay with centre and periphery, the local and the global, showing how this distinction could be eclipsed and at times surpassed relying on examples of circulation in order to do so. The fifth and final part of the book, “Los desarrollos culturales. Circulación de textos y autores. Os aspetos culturais. Circulação de textos e autores” (463–536), considers the circulation of texts and news

during the Iberian Union and the aftermath of the *Restauração* of Portuguese independence in 1640 throughout an interconnected Iberian world that was in constant transformation.

Impressive in its scope, erudition, and the novelty of the perspectives that it has to offer readers, *Redes y circulación en Brasil durante la monarquía hispánica* (1580–1640) is sure to be of interest to scholars of the Iberian world and Atlantic history in the early modern period. By straddling both contexts and paying attention to the role of intermediaries, both people and things as contact zones, the studies presented here provide up-to-date bibliography and newly unearthed archival sources that make a very welcome contribution indeed to contemporary debates and historiography that increasingly stress the importance of networks and circulation. It also wades into, though not always explicitly, the debate around global history, its strengths and limits. One can only hail this group of scholars whose writings shed crucial light on the context of this period of interconnected history in the world that is still able to surprise us.

JAMES NELSON NOVOA

University of Ottawa

<https://doi.org/10.33137/rr.v45i1.39139>