

Biographical Paragraph

Richard Ibarra is a historian of the medieval and early modern Iberian world. He received his Ph.D. in History from UCLA and is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar-Teaching Fellow in History at USC. His research focuses on the impact of transnational movement and early globalization on identity and the construction of community in the long sixteenth century. He is currently completing a book on diasporic identity in the sixteenth-century Iberian Atlantic. The book uses case studies of Genoese merchant families, following them from Genoa to Seville and across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and Mexico. The book shows that these merchants were not a colony separated from the cities in which they lived. Rather, by tracing these families through notary records, wills, lawsuits claiming nobility (*hidalguia*), and proofs of blood purity (*limpieza de sangre*), it is clear that they cultivated extensive ties with their adoptive communities even as they continued to identify as Genoese. The book also shows that the anxieties of the sixteenth century pushed against such diasporic identity and as a result, the very same families began to renounce or dissimulate their Genoese identity. Material from this project has appeared in the *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* and another article is under review for a special volume of *Renaissance and Reformation*. His research has been supported by several grants and fellowships, including a Frederic C. Lane Dissertation grant from the Medieval Academy of America and a Mayers Fellowship from the Huntington Library.