

Dr Vanesa Rodríguez-Galindo

CV and Research Activities

Vanesa Rodríguez-Galindo received her PhD in Art History from UNED, Madrid, and holds an MA degree in Metropolitan History from the Institute Historical Research, University of London. She is currently based in Miami and will be joining the teaching faculty at Florida International University next fall. She has held research positions at The National Archives of the United Kingdom and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture, University of Westminster. In addition to her academic research, she works as an art consultant and translator. Her translations have appeared in museum and exhibition catalogues published by the Fundación Juan March, Madrid.

Rodríguez-Galindo's research and publications examine visual and urban cultures in Spain. During her stay she will be working on a monograph that explores Madrid's illustrated print culture and perceptions of urban modernization in the late nineteenth century. The manuscript draws from her doctoral dissertation, which recently received an award from the ASPHS. It provides an innovative account of modernity that allows the reader to understand the fluid coexistence of local traditions and global processes. The study puts to the test readings of Western modernity, commonly formulated in terms of rupture, by shifting attention away from its canonical texts and locations and instead exploring what being modern meant to people in Madrid in their daily lives. Across visual and printed media, what surfaced was an acute awareness of the modern and the knowledge of forming part of an increasingly interconnected world. The monograph subtly puts into relation local and foreign practices as well as seemingly opposed aesthetics, namely the picturesque *costumbrista* style and photography. Working with concepts like visual and collective memory, it approaches these materials in terms of continuity and hybridity and shows the ways in which people established links between former artistic styles and those ushered in by mass media and photography.