

RUTTER

Rayas.

Global lines, mathematical frontiers.

A workshop organized by the RUTTER Project.

Lisbon, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon
September 26-27, 2024

Call for Papers

The year 2024 marks the 500th anniversary of the celebration of the “Juntas de Badajoz-Elvas”. These meetings brought together two delegations of juridical and scientific experts from Portugal and Spain for a little less than two months, with the aim of elucidating which of the two kingdoms held the ownership of the Moluccas islands. To do so, it was necessary to geographically position the so-called “meridian of Tordesillas”. As is well known, this was the demarcation instrument that the Iberian kingdoms agreed in 1494 to divide the bipolar world they aspired to dominate. Thus, the delineation of the borders of this bipolar world was to be astronomically and mathematically determined just from a conceptual entity: a line. This was a completely innovative decision, since geopolitical power had never before been allocated in this way—traditionally, the distribution of spaces of power had been solved by relying solely on geographical features. The history of the Tordesillas line and the debates surrounding it are a fundamental episode in both the history of early modern European science and the emergence of the idea of a global Earth.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the “Juntas de Badajoz-Elvas”, we propose a workshop to reflect on the novel partitions of power and notions of space that the Iberian kingdoms adopted in the early modern period. More specifically, we expect to discuss how such novel partitions of power and notions of space led to the construction of a “new spatial order”, based on the mathematical and conceptual approach of the Earth as a single, globally encompassable object. For this workshop, we invite scholars of all professional levels—from Ph.D. students and Early Career scholars to senior researchers—and disciplines to contribute on the themes of

- early modern science and technology;
- science and diplomacy in the Early Modern period;
- Iberian science;
- philosophy of geography in the Early Modern period;
- Any other theme related to the above.

Paper presentations will last **20 minutes**. Please submit an abstract (max. 250 words) and a short biography (max. 150 words) to globallines2024@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is **15th May, 2024**. Acceptances will be delivered no later than **1st June, 2024**. The workshop will be held **in person**, only.

Organizing Committee

José María Moreno Madrid
Henrique Leitão