

Dr. María Tausiet

HOLY CHILDREN

ACCUSING JEWS OF RITUAL MURDER
IN EARLY MODERN SPAIN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
6:15 PM
MINOR HALL 125

One of the most terrible accusations ever directed at any community is that of “blood libel”—the accusation that Jews murdered Christian children and used their bodies in religious rites. This mythical allegation, with origins in the Middle Ages, was particularly successful during the early modern period. Dr. [Tausiet’s](#) lecture examines two cases of children allegedly martyred in thirteenth- and fifteenth-century Spain. She explores the question of how these myths were deployed for political and religious ends at a time when many Spanish Jews had already converted to Christianity.

María Tausiet is a leading Spanish cultural historian who now lives in Madrid. From 2008 to 2011 she was a fellow at Spain’s premier research institute, Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. She is the author or co-author of 10 books and many articles and essays on topics such as witchcraft and magic, demonic possession, madness, and the notion of immortality and its depiction in scientific and fantastical representations of the afterlife.



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