The relationship between knowledge production and governance has been at the centre of research on the Spanish Empire for some years. Recent works by Arndt Brendecke, Antonio Barrera-Osorio and Daniela Bleichmar, among others, show the productivity of such approaches. One consensus reached by many recent works seems to be that information was produced and collected by various actors and institutions within the empire, but not necessarily put to use by the governing bodies in Spain. More often than not, the surveys, maps, geographical descriptions, ethnographic studies, plants and specimens, and other data collected were archived without ever becoming the basis of governmental decisions.

However, even with a recent and growing interest in matters of knowledge production and imperial governance, there is still room for further questions. The relation between knowing and not-knowing, recently taken into focus by Cornel Zwierlein, and the connection of knowledge and government practices on a local colonial level are such areas. This workshop is interested in both of these – and related – questions. It aims at bringing together recent work on governance, administration, and knowledge production from all parts of the Spanish Empire and Spain itself.
Thursday, 29 November

9.00-9.30 Introduction
Renate Dürr / Marie Schreier

Section 1: Legal and Institutional Foundations of Empire

9.30-11.00
Alexandra Anokhina (Oxford)
Francisco Suarez and Roman Legal Studies in Early Modern Spain

Adrian Masters (Austin)
From Ignorance to Archives. The Council of the Indies’ Creation of the Spanish Imperial Archive, 1492-1598

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00
Juan Carlos de Orellana Sánchez (Austin)
The Quest for Experience. The Transfer of Ministers in Royal Courts of Justice and the Development of the Indies as Juridical Space (1567-1687)

Santiago Muñoz Arbeláez (Yale/Bogotá)
Personal Visits. The Production of Knowledge and Ignorance in the Making of the New Kingdom of Granada

13.00-14.30 Lunch

Section 2: Threats to the Empire

14.30-16.00
Jessica Fowler (Segovia/Madrid)
From Knowing Heresy to Identifying Heretics

Eberhard Crailsheim (Madrid)
Knowing the Enemy. The Representation of the ‘Moros’ in the Early Modern Spanish Philippines

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.00
Martin Biersack (Munich)
Migration Politics in Colonial Spanish America: Knowledge Production and Administration Practices

Judith Mansilla (Miami)

19.00 Conference Dinner

Friday, 30 November

Section 3: Practices and Places of Information Gathering

9.00-10.30
Saul Guerrero & David Pretel (Caracas & Mexico City)
Governing of Useful Knowledge in Silver Refining in Colonial Spanish America

Lisa Kattenberg (Amsterdam)
Knowledge, Experience and Ending War in the Netherlands

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-11.45
Marie Schreier (Tübingen)
Precarious Knowledge in the Spanish Campaign against the Darien Colony (Late 17th Century Panama)

11.45-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00
Philip Baltuskonis (Mississippi)
For the Public Good. Cooperation in Education in the Viceroyalty of New Granada, 1770-1808

Matthew Crawford (Kent)
The Epistemic Culture of Empire. Focused and Panoptic Knowledge Production in the Eighteenth-Century Spanish Empire

15.00-16.30 Commentary and Final Discussion