

IHR History of Sexuality Seminar – June 2022

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17 April 1966, a 21-year-old woman from Granada commits suicide in a central hotel in Barcelona. The forensic investigation determined that her death was the result of drug intoxication. The police investigation focused on her group of friends in the Andalusian city, four 'invertidos' (homosexuals), whose statements were taken, legal proceedings were opened against them, and four photographs and a total of eight letters written in the days prior to her friend's suicide were confiscated.

The Provincial Historical Archive of Malaga holds the judicial files of the Special Court for vagrants and thugs of Granada, including the files of this case. The content of the letters is extremely interesting as it reveals that the motive for the suicide was an unwanted pregnancy, as the friends advised her to have an abortion as soon as possible, although there are also references to possible sexually transmitted diseases. The letters include interesting cultural references such as comments on films (*Last Year in Marienband* or *Zorba the Greek*) and poems that the group read, as well as drawings made by themselves and the 'queer' pseudonyms of each one. There are also references to Torremolinos, an hour and a half far from Granada, one of the few Spanish cities where during Franco's dictatorship it was possible to find LGBT-friendly bars, thanks to the arrival of international tourism, where they spent their holidays and which they refer to as the place where 'every time I go I find the most unheard of things, each person goes about their business without caring about the others, it's wonderful'.

Short Bio:

Javier Cuevas is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Malaga (Spain), and member of the University Institute for Research on Gender and Equality (IGIUMA). He has directed the research project *Cruising Torremolinos* during 2019-2021. He is the editor, together with Ángel Néstore, of the book *Cruising Torremolinos. Cuerpos, territorio y memoria* (2022). He has created, together with A. Néstore, the seminar of Queer Studies at the University of Malaga, in which international referents of queer studies such as Geoffroy Huard have participated. He has conducted research stays at the University of California, Berkeley (2019). In June 2022, he will participate in the Queer History Conference of San Francisco.

Cuevas, J. and Néstore, A. (eds.). *Cruising Torremolinos. Cuerpos, territorio y memoria*. Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch, 2022.

Cuevas, J. 'Granada 1968: cartografía del deseo negado', In: F. Muñoz y F. Bartolomé. *Cultura y arte queer*. Bilbao, Editorial de la universidad, 2021, pp. 47-60.

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