

Latin Eugenic notions in Gregorio Marañón's works (1915-1940)

Poster of the dissertation in progress by Ezequiel Varela Vázquez under the supervision of Professor Marius Turda

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Introduction

According to Francis Galton: "Eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities or a race [...]"

Correct definition, but not completely useful for the Spanish case

This dissertation will not explore the characteristics of Anglo-Saxon eugenics, but the notions of Latin eugenics in Gregorio Marañón y Posadillo (1887-1960), a renowned Spanish doctor whose writings help us to understand current debates around sexuality and more

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Feel free to get in touch if
you want to know more or
if you have any
suggestion!



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Primary Sources

Apart of the reading of literature the one mentioned in the References sections, it will also be consulted several archival material:

- Books written by Gregorio Marañón and Hildegart Rodríguez Carballeira (1914-1933)
- Journal articles and newspapers that mention the previous characters
- Other archival materials available in the Spanish National Library

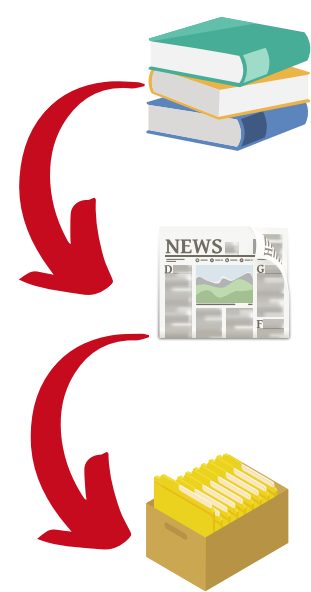


Fig. 1 Benítez, N. 2017, Partial view of the facade of the National Library of Spain. Madrid: Flickr

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Method

Notions of Latin eugenics will be applied to the materials previously numbered, paying particular attention to concepts of sexuality

Although Gregorio Marañón can be described as a reactionary, he also was an outstanding doctor who developed the so-called "Doctrine of Internal Secretions"

The Doctrine of Internal Secretions consisted in emphasizing human's hormones as determinant factors of the sex and the sexual behaviour of individuals. For him, "true women" or "true men" did not exist because all humans would be in a sort of "intersexual" state



Fig. 2 Portrait of Gregorio Marañón y Posadillo. 1929, *Retrato Gregorio Marañón*. Buenos Aires: Magazine Caras y Caretas



Fig. 3 Portrait of Hildegart Rodríguez Carballeira. Before 1933, *Hildegart Rodríguez*, Digitalperiodico.net

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Conclusions

- The activist Hildegart Rodríguez spread Gregorio Marañón's ideas during the early 1930s until her assassination by her own mother, Aurora Rodríguez Carballeira
- Gregorio Marañón wanted to reduce infant mortality under the banner of "maternidad consciente"
- Gregorio Marañón's theories of sexuality allowed him to develop a more permissive position in relation to sexual deviance
- It should be noted that these conclusions are not definitive yet

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References

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