



# Institute for Lifecourse and Society - ILAS

*Erasmus project lecture in association with the  
Discipline of Applied Social Science (DASS)*



## Spain's Stolen Babies

This seminar examines how Spanish and international audiovisual media have contributed to shaping collective memory of the “stolen babies” cases in Spain, one of the most serious human rights violations in the country’s recent history. These cases involved newborns taken from their biological parents without consent, beginning during the Spanish Civil War, continuing throughout Franco’s dictatorship, and lasting into the democratic period. By placing these events in a wider European context, the seminar highlights historical links between Spain and Ireland.

This is suitable for students, researchers, and academics with an interest in contemporary and European history, human rights, gender and media studies, and comparative social history. It will also be of value to those interested in Irish–Spanish historical connections and in understanding how societies confront and respond to historical trauma today.

**DATE: Monday, 16th February 2026**

**TIME: 10:00 - 12:30**

**VENUE: G006, ILAS Building, University of Galway**

[Register here](#)

INVITATION



The seminar aims to explain the reality of child disappearances in Spain and the situation of single mothers, analyse how these events were represented in Spanish and international media, and compare the treatment of single mothers in Spain and Ireland. It also examines repressive policies toward women and girls in both countries, the role of institutions such as the Magdalene Laundries and Women's Protection Patronage centers, and the influence of the Catholic Church. Finally, it considers how both countries have addressed these histories through public policy.

# Speaker

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**Prof Ana Mancho** is a professor at the University of Zaragoza. She previously worked as a journalist for Aragón TV and has lectured at the University of Bordeaux, the École Supérieure de Commerce, and the Instituto Cervantes in Bordeaux. She holds a degree in Philosophy and Humanities, specializing in Contemporary History, from the University of Zaragoza; two master's degrees in Communication from the University of Corte (France) and Zaragoza; and a degree in Political Science from Bordeaux.

In 2017, she defended her doctoral thesis—cum laude with an international mention—on the audiovisual portrayal of stolen children cases. Combining historical overview with media analysis, the study examined how reports and documentaries contribute to recovering historical memory, and whether these productions maintain rigor or lean toward infotainment, a key factor in victim reparation.



**María Antonia Solans** is a lecturer at the University of Zaragoza, where she currently teaches English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and scientific English across several programmes in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities. In recent years, she has also taken on a growing teaching role in journalism and communication-related degrees, a setting that has become one of her main academic interests. Her work at this intersection - health sciences, ESP, and the field of journalism - has strengthened her commitment to exploring how communication practices, digital media, and language learning converge in contemporary higher education.

## Schedule

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Time	Details
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome & Introductions
10:10 - 11:25	Historical Analysis  Journalistic Analysis
11:25 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 12:20	Facilitated discussion connecting learning from the seminar with the Irish Context <i>Prof. Caroline McGregor, Dr Carmel Devaney and Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley, University of Galway</i>
12:20 - 12:30	Closing Remarks and Future Directions

### Contact

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