

Charting Memory

Recalling Medieval Spain

Charting Memory: Recalling Medieval Spain elaborates an interdiscursive picture of how Medieval Spain has been remembered by various Arab, Jewish, and Hispanic peoples from well before 1492 to the present. The collection breaks with traditional foci on the legacies of separate Iberian communities and their descendants, and on limited, largely textual sets of their related cultural practices. In distinct ways, this collection takes a multi-ethnic and multi-modal approach, departing from sociologist Maurice Halbwachs' premise that collective memories form not within individuals alone, but through the inner and inter-workings of actual and conceptual social milieux. The volume hereby foregrounds the constitutive roles of communities created through prayer, literary resonances, architecture, musical performance, and name giving, in shaping memories of medieval Spanish contexts as well as complex identities in the Balkans, the Near and Middle East, North Africa, Latin American, and the United States. The ten original essays in this collection, by international specialists in anthropology, ethnomusicology, literary criticism, folklore, and onomastics, are not arranged according to Arab, Jewish, and Hispanic cultural memories of medieval Spain. Instead, the collection's unique comparative emphasis illuminates ways in which various peoples have re-articulated memories relating to medieval Spain in and across physical, temporal, and social locations, with different types and degrees of impact.

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