

List I

HIU34069 / 70 Justice and Violence in early modern Europe (Vidali)

The module provides an introduction to the interrelationships between justice and violence in Europe between 1500 and 1800, with a focus on several methodological and theoretical issues. It draws on both the most recent historical findings and some selected milestones in the field to investigate several perspectives, including state-building, gender, the economy of violence, politics, cross-border relations, and visual and written representations of violence. In the Michaelmas Term, the module will show how violence and justice were intrinsically connected in ancient regime Europe; in the Hilary Term, there will be a thematic focus on specific forms of violence.

Some questions that are going to be addressed in the lectures and seminar lessons are the following: what is interpersonal violence and how is it measured? And how its definitions changed throughout the centuries? Did a culture of violence exist in early modern Europe and how did gender, ethnicity, and emotions shape it? What impact had justice on violence and with what instruments early modern states tried to keep social order and public peace in the territories under their control? Finally, what was the relationship between early modern states and political violence, early forms of terrorism, and proto-extradition agreements?