

**Thursday Sep. 13, 3:30-5:00 pm – “Utopia & Utopias”**

**Chair : Dr. Gabriela Schmidt (U. Munich, Germany)**

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**Geronimo de Medinilla’s Spanish translation of *Utopia* (1637) revisited**

This paper approaches the first Spanish translation of More’s *Utopia* printed in Córdoba in 1637, over a century after the Leuven edition was published. The work was presented by the nobleman Geronimo de Medinilla at the end of the Spanish Siglo de Oro, following a suggestion of his friend and writer Francisco de Quevedo. The fact that the famous Spanish satirist was concerned with the instability of the political situation is quite relevant for the aim of the translation. On the one hand, if *Utopia* was translated into Spanish, a considerable number of readers would have access to More’s fundamental theories. On the other hand, due to the fact that *Utopia* was considered an ideal text for governors, Quevedo might cherish the wish that this work would inspire fair and incorruptible political institutions throughout the country. In this sense it is relevant to point out that Medinilla just translated the Second Book, which includes the description of the island of the Utopians. This work is primarily a free rendering that tries to preserve Thomas More’s ideals in essence with some constraints – this might have been caused by the presence of the Inquisition in Spain. Finally, reference will be made to the possible source of Medinilla’s translation.

