Dr. María Tausiet

HOLY CHILDREN

Accusing Jews of Murder in Early Modern Spain

Monday, March 6

One of the most terrible accusations ever directed at any community is that of “blood libel” – the accusation that Jews murdered Christian children and used their bodies in religious rites. This mythical allegation, with origins in the Middle Ages, was particularly successful during the early modern period.

Dr. Tausiet’s lecture examines two cases of children allegedly martyred in thirteenth- and fifteenth-century Spain. She explores the question of how these myths were deployed for political and religious ends at a time when many Spanish Jews had already converted to Christianity.

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