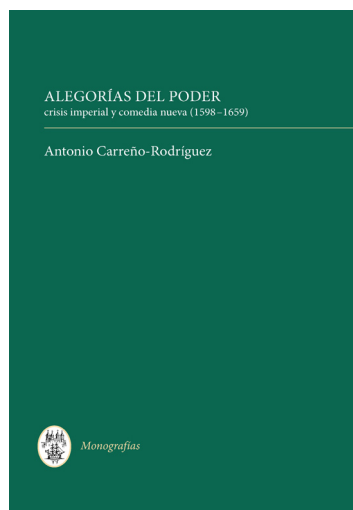


PRESS RELEASE



ALEGORÍAS DEL PODER

crisis imperial y comedia
nueva (1598-1659)

ANTONIO
CARREÑO-RODRÍGUEZ

This book examines the dramatic works
of Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina,
and Calderón de la Barca against the

backdrop of Spain's political and social instability in the first half of the seventeenth-century. Contrary to interpretations that reduce the comedia to an instrument of monarchical propaganda, this study argues that many plays during this period function as veiled, metaphorical critiques of the reigns of Philip III and Philip IV. As dramas with an ethical and political intention, plays categorized within the dramatic subgenre defined as "allegories of power" present a series of reflections that delineate models of both good and bad governance. Through arguments adapted from Classical, Biblical, European or Spanish history, or from ancient legend, this dramatic corpus reflects upon the intrinsic relationship between a just and ordered kingdom and the practice of upright moral and political values. The dramatic medium thus allowed these playwrights to join the chorus of voices that reflected upon the nature of the ideal prince and *ars gubernandi* in other genres (political treatises, emblem books, lyric, etc.) without risk of censorship.

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ÍNDICE

- I. DALEGORÍAS DEL PODER: TEXTOS Y CONTEXTOS
- II. LOPE DE VEGA O LOS INICIOS DE LA CRISIS DEL PODER
- III. TIRSO DE MOLINA O LA CARNAVALIZACIÓN DEL PODER
- IV. CALDERÓN: TEMPLANZA, PRUDENCIA Y PODER
- V. CONCLUSIÓN: "QUE EN EL RAYO DENTRO DE LA NUBE SE DECÍA TODO"

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