

Luis Salas Almela studied Early Modern History at the *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* (Spain). Following the publication of his first book, *Colaboración y conflicto. La Capitanía General del Mar Océano y Costas de Andalucía, 1580–1660* (Córdoba, 2002), he was awarded a grant from the European University Institute, where he obtained his Ph.D. in History and Civilization (October 2006). His doctoral dissertation focused on the most powerful Castilian noble house—the Dukes of Medina Sidonia—during the Early Modern period, and was later published under the title *Medina Sidonia: el poder de la aristocracia, 1580–1670* (Madrid, 2008).

He subsequently joined the *Centro de História de Além-Mar* in Lisbon, where he initiated a new line of research on the development of Iberian port cities during the expansion of Atlantic trade with the Indies in the sixteenth century. This research was later continued at the *Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos* (CSIC, Seville) between July 2009 and December 2011, where he deepened his study of the urban network established by Sevillian imperial merchants along the southwestern coast of Castile. His investigations focused on significant towns under aristocratic control, such as El Puerto de Santa María—owned by the Dukes of Medinaceli—and Sanlúcar de Barrameda, the seigneurial court of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia.

In January 2012, he was awarded a prestigious *Ramón y Cajal* fellowship, which he held at the University of Córdoba (UCO). His research interests in the relationship between the Castilian aristocracy and urban centers culminated in the publication of *La más callada revolución* (Madrid, 2021). In this work, Salas examined how certain urban centers were shaped by the political and fiscal influence of the Andalusian nobility, comparing the seigneurial towns of El Puerto de Santa María and Sanlúcar de Barrameda with the royal city of Burgos—one of the most prominent cities in Castile. Since 2021, he has served as a tenured Professor at the University of Córdoba.

Between 2021 and 2024, he co-directed—together with Professor Enrique Soria—a research project funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science. This project explored how certain urban social groups, often composed largely of *conversos*, formed a distinctive middle stratum with clearly defined characteristics. Within this broader framework, his research focused on Spanish merchants engaged in trade with the Indies and on the institutions established around this activity in the city of Seville.

In September 2025, Dr. Salas obtained a new research project to lead a multinational research team—including scholars from the Philippines, Mexico, Peru, Sweden, and Spain—dedicated to studying the early stages of Spanish expansion in the Americas, with particular emphasis on the development of urban networks.

A complete CV in:

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Most relevant recent publications for Urban History

Salas Almela, Luis, "Nobleza y fiscalidad en la ruta de las Indias: el emporio señorial de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (1576-1641)", *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*, 62/2 (2007), pp. 13-60.

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Soria Mesa, Enrique y Luis Salas Almela (eds), *Conversos, Power and the Intermediate Groups in Golden Age Spain*, ArcheoPress, Bicester, 2025.

Other relevant publications

Salas Almela, Luis, *Medina Sidonia. El poder de la aristocracia, 1580-1670*, Marcial Pons, Madrid, 2008

Salas Almela, Luis, *The Conspiracy of the Duke of Medina Sidonia: An Aristocrat in the Crisis of the Spanish Empire (1641)*, Brill, Leiden-Boston, 2013 [ISBN: 978-90-04-25575-3].

Salas Almela, Luis, *La más callada revolución. Conflictos aduaneros, nobleza y la Corona de Castilla (1450-1590)*, Sílex, Madrid, 2020 [ISBN: 978-84-7737-553-1].

Salas Almela, Luis, “The moriscos of Salé, the Hispanic Monarchy, and political love: power agents and identities to the west of the Strait of Gibraltar (163132)”, *The Historical Journal*, 67/2 (2024), pp. 199-222.