

SPAIN TODAY:



DIALOGUES ON CRISIS, RECOVERY AND POPULISM

For years, the Spanish *Transición* (from dictatorship to democracy) and economic growth were praised by many people, both in Europe and the Americas. However, the 2008 economic crisis hit hard on the Southern countries, especially Spain, where its financial system and its public-sector administration continue to be a source of weakness. The economic crisis also meant the birth of populist political parties that have changed the political spectrum in the country.

SPANISH STUDIES AT UTRECHT UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“SPAIN TODAY”,

COMMISSIONED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

 **FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER**
 **DRIFT 21, ROOM 0.32**

9:15 Registration

9:30 Introductory notes by Rebeca Fernández Rodríguez (Co-coordinator of Spanish Studies at Utrecht University), Taco Stoppels (Head of Western Europe Division of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

9:45 Guadalupe Sánchez Baena will be introduced by Stefanie Massink “What trends or developments do we see in Spain and the Netherlands regarding (the rise of) populism in politics (perhaps also related to a fragmented political landscape)? What are the differences and similarities of these developments, and how can we perhaps explain them?”

10:30 Break

10:45 Rafael Galán del Río will be introduced by Maartje Bakker (former Volkskrant correspondent in Spain and current Science specialist) “Approaches to financial-economic policy in general and the economic fall-out of the war in Ukraine. How these financial-economic discussions can impact bilateral relations (negatively, but also positively: What opportunities are there to cooperate/bridge the gap?)”

11:30 Panel & Debate, moderated by Maartje Bakker.

12:20 Endnotes by Taco Stoppels and Rebeca Fernández Rodríguez

12:30 Lunch

SPEAKERS

GUADALUPE SÁNCHEZ

Practising lawyer at her own law firm, Novalex. She also has a weekly publication in the digital newspaper The Objective and does political analysis in the radio with Carlos Herrera.

RAFAEL GALÁN DEL RÍO (PERPE)

Spanish economist and telecommunications engineer, founder of perpe.es, a leading data and graphics website, who has been recognised as one of the most influential economists on social media for several years.

STEFANIE MÁSSINK

She is an Assistant Professor of History of International Relations, focusing on democratization and regime change, Dutch foreign policy, Spain in the world, as well as Dutch-Spanish relations.