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Conference „Gender, Society, and Networks between 1750 and 1820: Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily, a Prism of her Times?“, 8th/9th September 2022

On 8th and 9th September 2022, the Project „Changing Social Representations of Political Order ca. 1800. Governmental Concepts in the Correspondence of Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily“, funded by the Austrian Science Fund, and the „Maria Carolina-Network“ hosted a conference in Innsbruck with the title „Gender, Society, and Networks between 1750 and 1820: Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily, a Prism of her Times?“.

In this conference, we saw Queen Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily as a prism, or more precisely as an intersection of overlapping crossovers that enables us to contextualise broadly defined social, economic, and political developments of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. This crossover was to be analysed both vertically – through social hierarchies – as well as horizontally across geographic regions throughout Europe in this period. In this context, Maria Carolina of Naples-Sicily served as a primary starting point and as a model for wider considerations of rulership, gender, societal change, familial status, and political participation as well as geopolitical shifts and dynastic integration and competition.

One aim of the conference was to connect researchers on the topic of Maria Carolina and her times from different countries. Especially precious and new were the speakers from England and Northern Ireland – Allison Goudie (Greenwich), Gabriel Guarino and Jordan Bertuccelli, both from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. We thank „BritInn – Academic Network Britain–Innsbruck“ very much for supporting the conference by financing Gabriel Guarino’s stay and travel costs.