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# THE MADRID GOTHIC SEMINAR

The MGS began in January 2010 in the Department of English Studies at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid to provide a forum for research and debate on Gothic literature. Run by Manuel Aguirre and Beatriz Sánchez, it is linked to *The Northanger Library Project* (<http://www.northangerlibrary.com>), the LIMEN Research Group (<http://www.limenandtext.com>), and the work of The Gateway Press. It is, so far as we know, the first forum for the study of the Gothic genre in Spain.

For the purposes of the Seminar, Gothic is understood historically, as a genre that emerged in the latter part of the eighteenth century and evolved into other genres in the course of the 1820s and 30s. There can be no question that horror literature exhibits continuity over two and a half centuries; but keeping the semantics of ‘Gothic’ to the historical period ranging roughly from 1764 to 1824 helps tighten our focus and allows us to concentrate on the far from clear origins of the genre.

Far too many studies of the Gothic centre on theme and idea, often at the expense of textuality itself; the MGS currently concentrates on analysis of formulaic diction, narrative structure, textual problems, genre construction—in a word, on the *forms* of Gothic, on the common-sense assumption that these are crucial purveyors of textual meaning.

The Madrid Gothic Seminar is free and welcomes students and scholars interested in Gothic literature, its history and its role in eighteenth-century culture. The MGS convenes approximately once a month.

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