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PANEL:

*Storm and Stress in Spanish Louisiana, 1762-1803*

Louisiana became a Spanish colony in 1762, when France renounced its claims to most of North America as a result of the Seven Years' War. How did the colonists and the natives of Louisiana experience this transfer? How did Spanish officials assimilate – or fail to assimilate – with their new subjects? What role did the very first printing press have in either enforcing imperial authority or subverting it? This panel will bring together researchers who study all aspects of Spanish Louisiana. Topics may include the language of protest in the manifestos of the 1768 anti-Spanish Revolt; the role of poetry and theater in this colony; the first newspapers printed in New Orleans; cultural exchanges between people of Spanish, French, African, and Native American descent; and the formation of Louisiana Creole identity. We will also consider relations between the Spanish colonial government and the American revolutionaries, for example, in regard to the Wilkinson Conspiracy and the cult of personality surrounding Bernardo de Gálvez.