

## 1. Género, feminismos e estudos sobre as mulheres

### OC - (22559) - HIC, HAEC, HOC. INTERSEXUAL FIGURES AND UNEXPECTED REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EMBLEM BOOKS

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Being aware that the representation of female figures in Early Modern art generally reflects stereotypes established by social conventions, this proposal focuses on images displayed on emblem books that do not correspond to the contemporary construction of gender. This new literary typology flourished after the publication of Alciato's *Emblematum liber* (1531) and reached a huge success, taking advantage of an efficient mechanism that combined pictures and words. Those logo-iconic compositions, able to express complex ideas in concise and impacting forms, were widely used by thousands of writers and artists throughout Europe, America and Asia. They covered different areas, such as literature, ethics, natural sciences, religion, politics and love, offering therefore a understudied source for female iconography. Most of these books intended to be didactic and contributed to a persuasive speech on women's social role, providing pictorial propaganda to promote chastity, marriage, maternity and female obedience. Even so, among the conventional portraits, there are significant exceptions, including rebel daughters, virtuous prostitutes, wise women and intersexual figures. How did emblem books present women whose behaviour transgressed spiritual and social boundaries? And what can these rare bimodal discourses tell us about diversions from the expected representation of women?

**Palavras-chave :** iconography, comparative studies, literature, representation of women