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Introduction : Facing Uncertainty in Early Modern Iberia -- Staging Inquisitions : Nature, Culture, Religion. Trusting the "I" : The Uncertainty of Picaresque Confession in Guzman de Alfarache ; Feeling Certainty, Performing Sincerity : The Emotional Hermeneutics of Truth in Inquisitorial and Theatrical Practice ; Conflicting Certainties or Different Truths? : Healers and Inquisition in Baroque Spain ; True Peste and False Doors : Medical and Legal Discourse during the Great Castilian Plague, 1596-1601 ; Policing Talent in Early Modern Jesuit Rome : Difference, Self-Knowledge, and Career Specialization -- Negotiating History and Theology. Stolen Saint : Relic Theft and Relic Identification in Seventeenth-Century Rome ; Baptizing "uncertain human beings"? : Probabilist Theology and the Question of the Beginning of Human Life in Seventeenth-Century Catholicism ; Truth and Human History in Melchor Cano's *De locis theologicis* ; Ambivalent Origins : Isaac La Peyrere and the Politics of Historical Certainty in Seventeenth-Century Europe.

Sommario/riassunto

How was the early modern pursuit of knowledge in very different spheres conditioned by a shared desire for certainty? How did this desire in turn link the epistemological crises produced by the religious upheavals of early modern Europe with the development of new scientific methods? This volume recontextualizes the production of knowledge in the early modern period (1550-1700), focusing on the social and institutional dimensions of inquiry in light of political and cultural challenges. The collection explores how uncertainties about religious identities (and even the status of irreligion) challenged traditional modes of learning. As knowledge of all sorts was integrated into different traditions in a context of unprecedented religious questioning, institutions and texts sought new means of controlling and regulating "truth." Questions of representation became newly fraught as the production of knowledge increasingly challenged established orthodoxies. --