The economic treatises published in Spain from the 1540s onwards discussed the merits and inequities of trade through the lenses of moral philosophy, international law, and political theory. But the practical manuals teaching the arts of commerce focused on skill and the commercial dimensions of political life. The tensions and contradictions between theory and praxis spilled into intellectual discussions and literary reflections. The seminar investigates the epistemic, heuristic, and formal interrelations between economic thought, business practice, and figurative writings in order to examine how early modern Spain reckoned with commerce. This task involves exploring the process through which society embraced trade, investing, and credit, while raising the question whether imperial Spain presents 21st century society with a mirror in which to behold a not-so-distant society wrestling with similar ways of doing business.