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DE GALICIA



Identities In Transition: Cultural Representations of the Galician Diaspora

University of St Andrews
16 - 17 June 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

According to official records, the number of Galician emigrants in recent years has more than doubled. The National Institute of Statistics (PERE, 2016) gives figures which suggest that over half a million Galicians (more than fifteen percent of the total population) now reside abroad. It is evident that Galician emigration, as much today as in the past, has been motivated by external circumstances, and therefore should not be considered a natural phenomenon. The Galician diaspora has many facets, obscuring countless individual stories and manifesting itself in diverse ways to provoke a series of societal changes that continue to leave their mark on the cultural legacy of the community. It is for this reason that this conference proposes a reconfiguration of the paradigms related to the topic of Galician emigration. The aim is to open up new lines of investigation that draw on alternative interpretations of the fragmentation of Galician identity in the current socio-political and cultural context.

The confluence of innovative forms of communication in the digital age and the recent economic crisis, as well as other factors that mean emigration is no longer as traumatic an event as it was during the last century, oblige us to reflect on the way in which increased Galician mobility has influenced the construction of new identities. In the coming years, artistic expression, whether literary, visual or performative, will illustrate the way in which the recent economic recession is having an impact on a whole new generation of emigrants. 'Identities In Transition: Cultural Representations of the Galician Diaspora', however, believes that the current historical perspective allows us to approach this phenomenon from a critical point of view, as there exists a generation of artists whose work helps to reconfigure an alternative sense of transnational and transcultural reality beyond the existentialist notion of the nation-state. For this meeting, we therefore invite analyses of the present, without losing sight of the different periods of emigration which have marked the Galician diaspora since the beginning of the twentieth century.

We invite all those who wish to participate in 'Identities In Transition' to send their proposals for twenty-minute papers exploring the questions presented here, with an abstract of no more than 300 words to identidades2017@st-andrews.ac.uk before 28 February 2017. Among the possible lines of research, the following are emphasised:



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- The Galician diaspora and its cultural representations
- Culture, power and resistance from the exterior
- Border literatures
- Transculturation and acculturation in the diaspora
- Transnational cultural fiction(s)
- Gender and (e/im)migration
- Globalisation and cultural emergence
- The rhetoric of migration
- Past and present Galician migration typologies
- Nostalgia, saudade and/or the sense of belonging

The working languages of the conference will be Galician, Spanish and English. It will take place in the School of Modern Languages of the University of St Andrews on 16 - 17 June 2017.

For further information, please visit the conference site: <http://identidades2017.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>