GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT
50th Anniversary Annual Conference

Ireland / Galicia
9–11 May 2019

CONSELLO DA CULTURA GALEGA
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
The Fiftieth Anniversary Conference
of the
Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement
Annual General Meeting

Santiago de Compostela
Ireland / Galicia Conference

9–11 May 2019

Venue: Consello da Cultura Galega,
Santiago de Compostela
Welcome

The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement (GSIHS) was founded by Dr Robin Glasscock, then of Queen’s University, Belfast, in 1969. The aim of the Group was clearly set out at its inaugural meeting and was often repeated in the bulletins and newsletters of the 1970s. The three principal aims still are:

1. To produce and circulate useful information concerning Irish historic settlement.
2. To promote and coordinate studies of particular aspects of settlement.
3. To express opinions on matters of historic settlement which are of national and local concern, and, where necessary, to press for action.

The Group’s annual conference has been successful for a variety of reasons. First, it has always believed in an inter-disciplinary approach and in its publications and meetings has avoided a too narrow and off-putting specialism. Yet, the annual meeting and the theme conferences have always combined a high level of expertise with a warm friendliness towards all who attend, be he or she a professor in a history department or a rank and file member of a local historical society. Everyone who attends is valued for what they can contribute to settlement studies.

An attractive feature is that GSIHS has insisted on going about Ireland and to a different province each year so as to kindle enthusiasm for the aims of the organisation and build on the amateur and voluntary effort in so many historical and archaeological societies. This year not only have we had a thematic conference in Dublin in March 2019, but we also have an annual meeting in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. Ireland and Galicia have strong links in archaeology, history, culture, the Atlantic economy and not least in the many Irish people who now travel as pilgrims to the shrine of St James.

The task of circulating useful information about Irish settlement has been made easier by technology while curiously it may be more difficult to get people to travel to a weekend such as ours. Yet, the effort is worthwhile for the friendships made and learning uncovered. We have many loyal members who come every year to the annual conference. They are the backbone of the organisation.

I believe that GSIHS should continue to work closely with the county heritage officers and the Heritage Council to build a county network for GSIHS throughout the country and to use the best of the social media tools to get our message across. The Heritage Council of Ireland is represented at GSIHS 50 by Professor Muiris Ó Súilleabhsáin who is a member of the board of the council and we thank him and the chair of the Heritage Council, Michael Parsons, for their support.

A read through the GSIHS newsletters (now online) since the 1970s is to be reminded of the progress in settlement studies; of the gigantic contribution of members such as Ray Gillespie and Bernadette Cunningham and of officers of the Group in the past such as Michael Hanrahan and Niamh Crowley. One recalls, too, great weekends such as those at Youghal, Carnlough, Bantry, Gort and Dungarvan last year. My first introduction to the Group was back in 1972 when the annual meeting was held in Athlone and the Offaly-based committee member was Fr Conor McGreevy and local friends included Billy English and Harman and Ann Murtagh. I am very glad to see
Harman at this conference. We greatly miss Rolf Loeber who was so much a beacon for settlement studies and embraced all the ideals of this society so wholeheartedly.

For the honour of serving you as president since 2016 I have to thank Matthew Stout (my hard-working predecessor) and you the members who attended at Ballina, South Kildare and Dungarvan. I look forward to meeting you again at this conference in Santiago and hearing your suggestions for the continued good fortune of our Group.

I conclude by thanking all our speakers. Some of you I have known for many years and others I will meet for the first time at this conference. To all of you a sincere thanks for sharing all that you love and that is so important to settlement studies. The GSIHs committee is a pleasure to work with. Our secretary Margaret Murphy and the sub-committee for this conference cannot be equalled. All of our committee bring a degree of enthusiasm that augurs well for the future of this Society.

We are grateful to the Consello da Cultura Galega, Santiago de Compostela for very kindly making available the conference centre in the Rajoy Palace/Pazo de Raxoi in Plaza Obradoiro. From the first I received support and encouragement from Manuel Gago Mariño, of Consello da Cultura Galega, my friend Antón Pais Rodríguez, the former president of Consello da Cultura Galega, Ramon Villares and the current Presidenta, Rosario Álvarez, who has very kindly agreed to attend the opening of the conference. I should also mention former Maynooth student, Dr Elias Cueto, who gave very helpful advice as did Professors Raymond Gillespie and Tom O’Connor. Dr Ciarán O’Skea was enthusiastic from the first as was Dr José Carlos Sanchez Pardo and, in particular, with the venue for the launch of Bernadette Cunningham’s *Medieval Irish pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela*.

Dr Patrick O’Flanagan is almost a native in Spain and has done a great deal to advance the study of Galicia and Ireland. He was a staunch supporter of this conference and, indeed, organised one himself some twenty years ago. Professor O’Flanagan has organised our tour on Sunday. We had enthusiastic support from Professor Felipe Criado-Boado, a research professor at the Spanish National Research Council, who regrets that he cannot be with us, but is very keen to see strong links between the archaeological community in Galicia and Ireland. Perhaps there is a strong case for extending this linkage to a third such community on the Atlantic coastline.

We wish to thank Dr César Parcero-Oubiña, Dr Clíodhna Ni Liónain, Dr Geraldine Stout, Dr Bernadette Cunningham, Professor Carmona Badía, the authorities of the Department of History (Facultade de Historia), University of Santiago, Santiago de Compostela Turismo (Ann Munin), our tour guides and Rodrigo Arbones.

Finally, I wish to thank the committee of the Group and, in particular, David Fleming, Matthew Stout, Geraldine Stout, James Lyttleton and Bernadette Cunningham who was co-opted to our subcommittee.

It only remains for me to say have a good conference and enjoy the wonderful city of Santiago de Compostela. Let us expand the links for settlement studies between Ireland and Galicia.

Michael Byrne
info@offalyhistory.com
The Conference

Thursday 9 May
5.00 pm  Registration in Consello da Cultura Galega, Obradoiro Square
6.00 pm  Reception, Orzamento café no Consello da Cultura.

Session 1
7.00 pm  Welcome from Michael Byrne, President, GSIHS
          Welcome from Presidenta Rosario Álvarez, Consello da Cultura Galega/Galician Cultural Council

Keynote lecture:
Patrick O’Flanagan (Professor Emeritus, University College Cork)
Galician settlement and landscape change: comparisons and contrasts with Ireland c.1700 to present

8.30 pm Meet and greet in Dezaseis, Rua de San Pedro. €32 includes wines (booking at conference).

Friday 10 May

Session 2
10.00 am  Welcome from Manuel Gago Mariño/Director culturagalega.gal/Consello da Cultura Galega and Michael Byrne GSIHS
10.10 am  César Parcero-Oubiña (Institute of Heritage Sciences – Incipit, Spanish National Research Council – CSIC)
An archaeological walk through prehistoric landscapes in Galicia
11.00 am  Geraldine Stout (Archaeologist, National Monuments Service)
Exploring the Boyne and Iberian prehistoric tomb building tradition
11.50 am  Coffee

Session 3
12.20 pm  Clíodhna Ni Lionain (Archaeologist, Devenish Nutrition)
Somos irmáns: the use of an imagined prehistoric past in articulating modern Irish/Galician connections.
1.10 pm  **Bernadette Cunningham** (Royal Irish Academy)
Pilgrimage from medieval Ireland to Santiago de Compostela

2.00–4.00 pm  Lunch, Orzamento café no Consello da Cultura. Free time until 5.00 pm

5.00–6.30 pm  Guided tour, ‘Santiago de Compostela: The universal venue’. 200 years of Irish history in Galicia, from the Flight of the Earls of 1602 and the establishment of the St. Patrick College at Santiago de Compostela until 1769 (Suso Martinez).

7.30 pm  **Book launch**, **Venue**: Facultade de Historia, University of Santiago de Compostela:

*Medieval Irish pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela* by **Bernadette Cunningham**

9.00 pm  Conference Dinner, AMOA, Rua de San Pedro. €40 includes wines (booking at conference).
Saturday 11 May

Session 4
9.30 am Annual General Meeting of Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlements

ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY SÍLE MAGUIRE,
AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

10.00 am Elías Cueto (Architect, Universidade Da Coruña)
The O’Sullivan family settlement in Santiago de Compostela: foreign friends and enemy compatriots

10.50 am José Carlos Sanchez Pardo (University of Santiago de Compostela)
Atlantic contacts among Galicia and other European lands ends during the Early Middle Ages

11.40 am Coffee

Session 5
12.10 pm Ciaran O’Scea (John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, University College Dublin)
Geographical residence, patronage networks and inheritance practices among the O’Driscolls in Galicia and Madrid in the seventeenth century

1.00 pm Xoán Carmona Badía (Economic History, University of Santiago de Compostela)
Ireland and Galicia: economic links

1.20 pm Manuel Gago Mariño (Consello da Cultura Galega)
Getting closer to the past: interactive technologies and digital narratives for the communication of historical projects

1.40 pm Closing speeches and thanks

2.00–4.00 pm Lunch, Orzamento café no Consello da Cultura. Free time until 5.00 pm

5.00–6.30 pm Guided tour, ‘Catedral’. Tour around Santiago de Compostela’s monumental heritage, including a not-to-be-missed walk around about the Cathedral and the famous Plaza del Obradoiro.

8.30 pm Dinner in in Dezaseis, Rua de San Pedro. €32 includes wines (booking at conference).
**Sunday 12 May**

Bus tour in the vicinity of Santiago for the day with the kind assistance of Patrick O’Flanagan. Thirty places only. Cost: €20 per person (includes a light lunch).

**Monday 13 May**

Tour of the churches of Santiago with local guides starting at 11 a.m. from San Martin Pinario. Costs: €10 per person and any entry fees that may arise.

**Tuesday 14 May**

Tuesday is a free day to relax and return to Dublin for those travelling with Aer Lingus. There is an excellent museum in Santiago and also one in Pontevedra for Tuesday morning.
Abstracts of lectures and a note on the speakers

Xoán Carmona Badía – Session 5, Saturday 11 May, 1.00 pm
Ireland and Galicia: economic links

This paper explores the centuries-old trading relationships between Ireland and Galicia and focuses on the fishing industry and tourism, amongst other connections.

Note on the speaker
Xoán Carmona Badía is director of Applied Economics at the University of Santiago de Compostela. His research has focused on maritime and industrial history, business history and industrial heritage. His books include *La Sociedad General Gallega de Electricidad y la formación del sistema eléctrico gallego, 1900-1955* (2016).

Elías Cueto – Session 4, Saturday 11 May, 10.00 am
The O’Sullivan family settlement in Santiago de Compostela: foreign friends and enemy compatriots

Elías Cueto discusses his research that has contributed unpublished data on the settlement of the Irish in Santiago de Compostela at the beginning of the 17th century. This information includes documents from Donal Cam O’Sullivan and his family. In that period, he has documented the internal divisions among the Irish nobles and religious.

Note on the speaker
Elías Cueto is an Architect, Master in Urban Planning and PhD on History of Architecture. He is the author of three books. In 2016 he received the Domingo Fontan Award for Historic Research. His field of knowledge is Early and late Modern History focusing on the historic city of Santiago de Compostela. He has also analysed the different relationships with Archipiscopal and Royal power.

Bernadette Cunningham – Session 3, Friday 10 May, 1.10 pm
Pilgrimage from medieval Ireland to Santiago de Compostela

The current popularity of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela is built on strong medieval foundations. Bernadette Cunningham’s lecture will trace the Irish connections with one of the major pilgrimages of the medieval Christian world, telling stories that explain why and how men and women travelled from Ireland to Santiago de Compostela in the Middle Ages. Her new research draws on official documents, historical chronicles, literary texts, saints’ Lives and archaeological finds to discover Anglo-Norman and Gaelic pilgrims who went from Ireland to the shrine of St James in Galicia in search of salvation and perhaps a little adventure.

Note on the speaker
Bernadette Cunningham is the author of a new book on *Medieval Irish Pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela* (Four Courts Press, 2018). Her previous books include *The Annals of the Four Masters: Irish history, kingship and society in the early seventeenth*
Manuel Gago Mariño – Session 5, Saturday 11 May, 1.20 pm
Getting closer to the past: interactive technologies and digital narratives for the communication of historical projects

Historical and cultural heritage is an area of special interest for the application of new digital technologies, both in the field of scientific research and in the dissemination of knowledge to a wider audience. The aim of this talk is to present different experiences made in archaeological and cultural dissemination projects in Galicia, which explore the idea of community, participation and experience in the relationship of the public with the past.

Note on the speaker
Manuel Gago Mariño is director of culturagalega.gal, the cultural media platform of the Consello da Cultura Galega, and associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences of the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela. He has developed prototypes and experiences about cultural communication and new technologies as a member of the research group in new media of the USC and promotes community heritage projects all over the country.

Clíodhna Ní Lionáin – Session 3, Friday 10 May, 12.20 pm
Somos irmáns – the use of an imagined prehistoric past in articulating modern Irish-Galician connections

This paper examines modern perceptions of prehistoric Irish/Galician connections, looking at how mythology, folklore, medieval literature (Book of Invasions), genetics, and archaeology have been used since the medieval period up to the present day to articulate Irish/Galician connections, whether real or imagined, for political and cultural nationalist purposes.

Note on the speaker
Clíodhna Ní Lionáin is a commercial archaeologist with field experience in Ireland and Iberia. Her doctoral thesis looked at modern perceptions of prehistoric Irish-Iberian connections, with a particular focus on Galicia. She is currently working as Project Archaeologist on the Devenish Lands at Dowth, in the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne.

Patrick O’Flanagan – Session 1, Thursday 9 May, 7.15 pm
Galician settlement and landscape change. Comparisons and contrasts with Ireland c.1700 to present

Galicia has supported one of Iberia’s richest and most distinctive cultural landscapes for hundreds of years. It evolved as a result of population pressure, growing food security and particular landholding structures, and reached its most intense expression probably during the interwar period. A strict national political economy based on a
commodity monopoly reduced Galicia’s economic energy and emasculated its potential economic growth. Among the leading results of these conditions were the emergence of stunted and unstable urban growth and a failure of a graduated urban hierarchy to appear. Potential Irish and other economic migrants to Galician ports and towns were deflected elsewhere on the peninsula especially to Cadiz. More recently, powerful forces have radically modified and often obliterated entirely this cultural landscape and its associated territorial structures. My task is to explain the growth and consolidation of the landscape and social complex. An interpretation through the lenses of internal colonialism models might serve, in part, as an explanation for this landscape change.

Note on the speaker

Patrick O’Flanagan is Professor Emeritus, University College Cork. His experience of Galicia goes back to at least 1967. Then, as an undergraduate, he whetted his interests there by traveling around Iberia. Returning to Galicia in 1970 to begin field work for a PhD, O’Flanagan has been coming back ever since. Attached to UCC’s Geography Department from 1976, O’Flanagan has worked at Santiago de Compostela and at other universities in Iberia, Mexico, France, the US, England and Scotland. His main research interests have focused on landscape and socio-economic change along Atlantic Europe with especial reference to Galicia, Ireland and Portugal. Besides these topics, O’Flanagan has worked on port cities, early industrialization and Irish communities in Iberia.

Ciaran O’Scea – Session 5, Saturday 11 May, 12.10 pm

Geographical residence, patronage networks and inheritance practices among the O’Driscolls in Galicia and Madrid in the seventeenth century

One of the most important consequences of the failure of Spanish intervention in Ireland in 1601–2 was the ensuing emigration of some 10,000 Irish individuals to Galicia and the court in Valladolid. They followed in the wake of the arrival in Galicia of Dionisio (Donough) O’Driscoll, lord of Castlehaven, and Donal Cam O’Sullivan Beare, lord of Bearhaven between 1602 and 1608. These events led to the consolidation of the Irish communities in La Coruña, Santiago de Compostela and Betanzos. The most important of these communities was that of La Coruña.

From early in the seventeenth century, the city’s Irish community came to terms with their new socio-economic and political circumstances. This entailed integrating with the city’s population, and creating their own networks of patronage in order to gain access to honours and rewards at court, and to ensure their economic survival. At the same time the socio-cultural baggage that they brought from Ireland clashed at times with Spanish practices. Over time Irish families had to adapt to these new circumstances and develop alternative strategies for gaining access to patronage. This had a transforming effect on their original socio-cultural practices.

This talk looks at how one family, the O’Driscolls of Castlehaven, adapted to their new circumstances, first in La Coruña, and later in Madrid where most of the leading members emigrated after 1635. In this process, geographical residence, which reflected native Irish practices, together with godparenthood were significant determinants in the creation of networks of patronage and thereby access to royal favour.
**Note on the speaker**

Ciaran O'Skea lectures at the John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, University College Dublin. He has published extensively on Irish emigration to Spain in the early modern period as well as on the role played by foreigners in the Habsburg monarchy. His research interests cover the areas of literacy, family structure, religiosity, and the naturalisation of foreigners. In 2015, his monograph on the Irish community in La Coruña, *Surviving Kinsale: Irish emigration and identity formation in early modern Spain, 1601–40* was published by Manchester University Press. He also curated the bilingual exhibition Los Irlandeses y la Monarquía Hispánica (1529–1800): vínculos en espacio y tiempo, held in the Archivo General de Simancas in 2012. He is currently working on a project to map the Irish presence in the Madrid parishes during the seventeenth century.

**César Parcero-Oubiña – Session 2, Friday 10 May, 10.10 am**

*An archaeological walk through prehistoric landscapes in Galicia’*

This talk consists of an archaeological overview of the main changes documented in the history of the earliest landscapes in Galicia. Beginning with the emergence of the first human-built forms of landscape in the Neolithic, and finishing with the incorporation of Galicia into the global world of the Roman empire, Parcero-Oubiña will show how the remains of those ancient landscapes are still present today and what kind of social processes can be envisaged behind the changes that archaeology has identified across that long time period.

**Note on the speaker**

César Parcero-Oubiña is an archaeologist who currently works as a Staff Researcher at the Institute of Heritage Sciences (Incipit), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). His career developed at the University of Santiago de Compostela where he earned his PhD in 2001 with a dissertation on the productive, social and cultural landscapes of the Iron Age in north-west Iberia. His main research interests have been in the analysis of the interactions between the material remains of human communities and the landscape; in other words, in what is known as Landscape Archaeology. Within that framework, Parcero-Oubiña developed research in the later prehistoric periods in the north-west Iberian Peninsula, and also in the late prehispanic period in north Chile and north-west Argentina.

**José Carlos Sánchez-Pardo – Session 4, Saturday 11 May, 10.50 am**

*Atlantic contacts among Galicia and other European Lands Ends during the Early Middle Ages*

This presentation will explore the evidence for contacts between Galicia and other European Atlantic areas, with special attention to the case of Ireland. Although Galicia is often considered a ‘peripheral’ area of Europe, it has a key position within the maritime routes between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. The recent archaeological findings in Vigo, combined with other information on the ‘Celtic’ or Atlantic influences in Early Medieval Galicia (some aspects of ecclesiastical life and organization, the case
of the ‘Britonia See’, as well as shared literary traditions) seem to indicate relatively intense communications between Galicia and other regions of Atlantic Europe such as Aquitaine, Brittany, Britain and Ireland at least during the Early Middle Ages. Moreover, the nature and chronology of some of the evidence suggests the possibility of a real and ‘independent’ system of maritime contacts between the Atlantic seafront of Western Europe between the fifth and eighth centuries.

Note on the Speaker
José Carlos Sánchez-Pardo is a specialist in Galician early medieval history and archaeology. His work focuses on the study of early medieval landscapes, by means of the combination of material and textual sources. He has a Masters in Medieval Archaeology from the University of Siena (2004) and a PhD in Medieval History from the University of Santiago de Compostela. Between 2005 and 2006 he was a predoctoral fellow at the Spanish School of History and Archaeology at Rome. Between 2009 and 2014 he was a post-doc researcher in the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, London. Between 2013 and 2017 he led a four-years Marie Curie Career Integration Grant project on Galician early medieval churches at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He is currently Ramón y Cajal fellow researcher in Medieval Archaeology in the Department of History at the University of Santiago de Compostela.

Geraldine Stout – Session 2, Friday 10 May, 11.00 am
Exploring the Boyne and Iberian prehistoric tomb building tradition

Today Santiago de Compostela is well known as a centre of pilgrimage with medieval roots. However those roots go down deeper into prehistory to a time when Galicia was a major Neolithic religious centre. It had strong maritime connections along the Atlantic façade of Europe which indicates advanced maritime technology and seafaring ability. Galicia had links with prehistoric communities in the Boyne Valley in Ireland during the fourth millennium BC. Both regions were affected by a religious movement which had spread along the Atlantic fringe with origins in north western France. This movement expressed itself in the construction of magnificent megalithic tombs embellished with art, both painted and carved, and a range of grave goods. A settled community is an essential prerequisite for such an undertaking, dependant on a vibrant Neolithic farming economy in both regions.

Note on the Speaker
Geraldine Stout is a State archaeologist with the Irish National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. She holds a PhD from Trinity College Dublin and is a leading expert on the archaeology of the Boyne valley, currently excavating at Newgrange, and lecturing widely on the subject. She is the author of numerous papers and books on the area including Newgrange and the Bend of the Boyne (2002); Newgrange (with M. Stout, 2008) and Knowth Site M (with M. Stout, 2008).
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