

International Conference “Territory, Institutions and Identities”

1–11 June 2026

Santiago de Compostela

Scope

Territory constitutes far more than a physical setting in which human lives unfold. Since time immemorial, physical space has been subject to processes of conceptualisation and appropriation by individuals, communities, and political structures, giving rise to overlapping scales and to spaces structured by visible and invisible lines that have operated as boundaries and, in turn, contributed to the construction and continual reconstruction of identities.

Against this backdrop, we invite you to submit papers to a conference that seeks to explore the relationships between physical space and administrative space, as well as to analyse the role of boundaries and borders, territorial and administrative institutions, and the interactions between the identities ascribed to places by residents and visitors alike. The conference particularly welcomes methodological contributions and innovative perspectives across both fundamental and applied research.

Key Lines

• Administrative Spaces

The configuration and operation of administrative spaces at higher and lower levels; their successes and failures; their durability over time; and the factors underpinning such continuity.

Institutions and Territorial Agents

The configuration of institutions associated with territorial administration and the formation of territorial entities; comparative analyses; and the agents involved in their genesis and development.

Internal and External Borders

Studies of borders, their configuration, and their various dimensions over time. We are particularly interested in the role played by local actors, as their interaction with wider administrative frameworks is often decisive for the functioning of borders. Furthermore, although the term *border* is not commonly used in contemporary contexts to refer to internal divisions, we welcome contributions that reassess this assumption for earlier historical periods and that interrogate the differential usage—especially pronounced in English compared with Spanish—between *frontier* and *boundary*.

Identity and Territory

The links between identity and territory, including the role of identity, affective ties, and psychological bonds with space, as well as identities constructed through territorial imaginaries, in shaping territorial processes.

Perceptions and Perspectives

Convergence and tension in residents’ and visitors’ perceptions of territory and territorial identity, including its characteristics, dynamics, boundaries, and borders. We also welcome studies addressing the administrative and political dimensions of territorial identity, as well as policy perspectives on its conservation and (re)construction.

Paper proposal submission

The preferred languages are English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, although submissions in other languages will also be accepted. For publication purposes, a translation may be requested. Abstracts should be sent in an anonymized Word document to the following email address: rodrigo.pousa@usc.es. The length should be approximately 3,000–5,000 characters. Font: Times New Roman 12; line spacing: 1.5. Abstracts should place particular emphasis on the research field to which the proposal belongs, its aims and relevance, as well as the sources and methodology employed. In a separate file, authors should provide their personal details, institutional affiliation (if applicable), and contact information.

An edited collective volume is envisaged on a voluntary basis. Guidelines for participation will be provided at a later stage.

Schedule

Abstract submission deadline: 15 March 2026

Proposal review: 15 April 2026

Final programme: 30 April 2026

Submission of final texts: 30 June 2026

Organizer

Rodrigo Pousa Diéguez (IDEGA●Universidad de Santiago de Compostela)

Scientific Committee

Alejandro Otero Varela (Universidad de León)

Domingo Centenero Arce (Universidad de Murcia)

Jorge Ricardo Pinto (CEGOT●Universidade do Porto)

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Luis Miguel Moreira (IGOT●Universidade do Lisboa)

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Miguel García Fernández (IEGPS●CSIC-Xunta)

Nuria González (CIESE●Fundación Comillas)

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