

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF SPANISH GEOGRAPHY

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It is by no means easy to summarize in a few lines the wide spectrum of the international relations of Spanish Geography. Since joining the European Union, Spain has rapidly established contacts and relations with the rest of the continent and the world, in all sectors and at all levels, including the academic. Indeed, from the sporadic, irregular and frequently strictly individual contacts maintained by Spanish Geography in the sixties and early seventies, we have, over the last twenty years, established a full network of international relations at the institutional level not only within Europe, but also in the Mediterranean, North America and South America. This paper seeks to provide a brief review of this network.

This chapter focuses on three aspects of these relations: agreements with other geographical associations, scientific meetings and exchange programmes. We have not included in our discussion those programmes which contract visiting lecturers to Spain nor Spanish lecturers visiting universities abroad. Nor have we included European research projects undertaken as a part of the IV Framework Agreement supported by the European Commission, given that universities from within the European Union have worked in partnership with the business sector.

1. AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATIONS

In recent years the Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles (AGE - Association of Spanish Geographers) has established formal institutional links with other geographical associations of a similar character. Thus, in 1992, an agreement was signed with the Institute of British Geographers (IBG) by which membership of both associations could be granted to persons

who so desired together with the receipt of the corresponding newsletters (*Noticias Geográficas* in the case of the AGE) for a moderate fee. Within the framework of this agreement a joint working meeting will be held throughout 1996 between the Rural Geography Group of the IBG and the Rural Geography Group of the AGE.

Also, at the end of 1995 a similar agreement was signed with the Association of Portuguese Geographers (AGP) and, at the time of writing, the AGE is finalising details of further agreements with other European and South American associations.

2. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, DISCUSSION GROUPS AND SEMINARS

The expansion of Spanish Geography into the international arena, described above, has coincided with an internal process of growth and consolidation within the discipline. Over the last twenty years, geography has taken a strong foothold in the Spanish universities, which has led to a considerable increase in the number of graduates, lecturers and researchers. This not only explains the proliferation of Working Groups within the AGE itself, and their corresponding discussion groups and seminars, but also the ever increasing number of international scientific conferences and meetings being held in Spain year after year. Indeed the sheer number does not allow us to give an exhaustive description here.

We should begin with the Regional Conference of Mediterranean Countries of the International Geographers Union (IGU), held in Barcelona in 1986, following meetings at several universities within Spain of the various working commissions. Since then - and indeed even for some years before - various working commissions of the IGU, as well as the national committees of the European countries which are members of the IGU, have organised working sessions, workshops and congresses in Spain (the French Committee of Geography, to mention only one example, has just met in Mallorca to analyse the problems of tourist areas). One of the explanations for this is that several lecturers with a variety of research interests and members of various working groups have formed or form a part of the IGU's commissions, either as presidents, secretaries or as fully-fledged members. This is the case of the commissions on Communication and Telecommunication Networks, Gender and Geography and the History of Geographical Thought and the Working Groups on Development of Marginal Regions and Erosion and Desertification in Regions with a Mediterranean Climate.

This is not to say that prior to 1986 international seminars were not held in Spain. We should not forget the Scientific Meetings on Geography and Marxism, in 1983, and Humanism and Geography, in 1985, both of which were organised by the Complutense in Madrid. Yet, it remains true that it was only after 1986 when this kind of meeting increased in number.

In a similar vein are the biennial celebrations of the Iberian Conferences of Geography, an opportunity for the geographers of Spain and Portugal (neighbouring countries who for centuries ignored each other) to exchange ideas and debate common problems.

The number of international meetings resulting from the institutional links between Spanish and foreign universities is of such magnitude that it is difficult to select examples. In 1993, to give just one example, the Autonomous University of Barcelona held the International Seminar on *Work, Activity and Daily Life of Women: The Case of Southern Europe*. One year later, in 1994, in Palma de Mallorca the Seminar entitled *Territory*,

Architecture and Urban Planning was organised by the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of the Balearic Islands in collaboration with the Polytechnic Universities of Valencia and Turin. Many of these seminars have taken place within the framework of the new doctoral programmes or as a part of the activities organised by recently founded Departments: this is the case of the Ferrater Mora Chair of Contemporary Thought at the University of Girona, which this year (1996) has organised a fifteen-day international seminar on the new Human Geography, directed by David Harvey and with the participation, among others, of Derek Gregory, Neil Smith, Cindy Katz and Mireya Folch-Serra. Furthermore, a large number of Spanish universities each year organises Summer Schools in Geography (usually monographic in nature) which are, by and large, international gatherings.

3. STUDENT AND LECTURER EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Spain's integration within the European Union has meant that the Geography Departments of the country have been able to widen their scientific outlook and facilitate the mobility of students and lecturers alike - largely through exchange programmes and intensive courses - which have undoubtedly enriched the teaching and research within the Spanish university. The programmes which are most beneficial and also best known are Erasmus (with the universities of the EU), Tempus (with the universities of East Europe) and Alpha and Intercampus (with South American universities). The information outlined below has been provided by the Departments of Geography themselves and refers to the year 1995:

- University of the Balearic Islands. Erasmus Programme: 1) Aberdeen (coord.), Lisbon, Toulouse, Barcelona. 2) Geonet Programme: Utrecht (coord.), Oslo, Innsbruck, Barcelona, Leon, Seville, Toulouse II, Coimbra, University College London, Middlesex, Stockholm and Greinswal. 3) Nicoped Network (Teacher Training Colleges): Namur, Zwolle (Holland), Bedford (United Kingdom), St Mary's College (Belfast) and St. Parick's (Dublin). 4) Oxford Brookes University (coord.). 5) Aix-en-Provence (coord.), Valencia School of Architecture, Turin Polytechnic University, Venice School of Architecture, Autonomous University of Barcelona, University of Girona, Liege School of Architecture and Oslo School of Architecture.
- University of Alicante. Erasmus programme with Florence, Geneva and Paris.
- Autonomous University of Barcelona. Several Erasmus Programmes in which 67 universities participate. One of which is coordinated by Durham University and includes: Tübingen (Germany), Autonomous University of Madrid, Aix-en-Provence, Malaga, Utrecht, Lisbon, Roskilde (Denmark), Liege, Trento (Italy), Thessalonika (Greece), Pavia (Italy), Lille, Coimbra, Uppsala, Girona, Bergen (Sweden), Maynooth (Ireland) and Innsbruck (Austria). It also participates in an Intercampus programme and an exchange programme run by the University itself.
- University of Santiago de Compostela. Participates in an Erasmus programme with Cork (Ireland) and 15 other universities, as well as an Intercampus programme with the Valle University (Guatemala) and several projects with French universities.
- University of Extremadura. Participates in two Erasmus programmes with the Universities of Beira (Portugal), London, Amsterdam, Uppsala, Berlin, Strasbourg and Saint

- Andrews. It also participates in an Alpha programme with the Universities of Lisbon, Paris VIII and Bogota.
- University of Cantabria. Has three Erasmus programmes with twenty universities and an Intercampus programme with three places.
 - University of Valencia. Has an Erasmus programme with Leeds (United Kingdom), Montpellier and Mainz.
 - University of Alcalá de Henares. Participates in an Erasmus programme with six universities and an Alpha programme with ten.
 - University of Cádiz. Participates in Erasmus, Intercampus and Alpha programmes.
 - University of Girona. Has two Erasmus programmes. 1) More than 20 participating universities, including: Durham (United Kingdom; coord.); Tübingen (Germany), Autonomous University of Madrid, Aix-en-Provence, Malaga, Utrecht, Lisbon, Roskilde (Denmark), Liege, Trento (Italy), Thessalonika (Greece), Pavia (Italy), Lille, Coimbra, Uppsala, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Maynooth (Ireland) and Innsbruck (Austria). 2) Erasmus programme coordinated by the University of Venice with four others. Also has an Intercampus programme.
 - University of Leon. Has Erasmus and Intercampus programmes.
 - University of Barcelona. Has the following programmes: 1) An Erasmus programme with Utrecht (coord.), University of the Balearic Islands, Oslo, Innsbruck, Leon, Seville, Toulouse II, Coimbra, University College London, Middlesex, Stockholm and Greinswal. 2) An Alpha programme. 3) A Minerva exchange programme with Frankfurt and Lyon and a Eucity programme with Lyon, Bolonia and Berlin.
 - University of Seville. Participates in three Erasmus programmes coordinated by the Universities of Sardinia, Cork and Utrecht. Also two Intercampus programmes coordinated by the University of Sao Paulo and the Teacher Training University of Bogota. Runs an exchange programme with University College London and participates in the Human Capital and Mobility programme coordinated by Dublin.
 - Complutense University, Madrid. Two Erasmus programmes: 1) Leeds (coord.), in addition to Liege, Cantabria, Valencia, Grenoble I, Montpellier III, and Bristol. 2) Utrecht (coord.), together with the Universities of the Balearic Islands, Barcelona, Oslo, Innsbruck, Leon, Seville, Toulouse II, Coimbra, University College London, Middlesex, Stockholm and Greinswal. Also has an Alpha programme with the Universities of Sao Paulo, Comahue, Autonomous University of Mexico, National University of the South (Argentina) Guadalajara, Barcelona, Salamanca, Kiel and Brussels. Participates also in a French-Spanish cooperation programme with the Universities of Barcelona and Toulouse.
 - University of Malaga. Five Erasmus programmes with the following Universities: New University of Lisbon, Nantes, Siegen (Germany), Regio, Calabria, Zaragoza and Alicante.
 - University of Jaen. Exchange programme with Newcastle.
 - University of Salamanca. Two Erasmus networks: 1) Coimbra, Uppsala and Azores. 2) Keele (United Kingdom), London-Guildhall, Maynooth (Ireland), Gothenburg (Sweden), Bremen (Germany) Liege, Amsterdam and Lyon II. Also has an Alpha programme.
 - University of Murcia. Erasmus programme coordinated by Dublin together with

- Utrecht, Caen, Uppsala, Udine (Italy) Oulu (Finland), Leicester. Participates in two European networks for specific research projects related to urban geography and migrations.
- Autonomous University of Madrid. Participates in two Erasmus networks 1) Coordinated by the University of Durham together with Tübingen (Germany), Aix-en-Provence, Malaga, Utrecht, Lisbon, Roskilde (Denmark), Liege, Trento (Italy), Thessalonika (Greece), Pavia (Italy), Lille, Coimbra, Uppsala, Girona, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bergen (Sweden), Maynooth (Ireland) and Innsbruck (Austria). 2) Coordinated by Amsterdam and including London, Manchester, Paris IV, Bonn, Grenoble, Turin and Dublin. Also Templus Programme with Warsaw and Prague.
 - University of Valladolid. Erasmus programme with Paris IV-Sorbonne, Cork and Nancy II. Via Erasmus included within the network comprising the Universities of Bonn, Roskilde, Bordeaux, Lille, Nantes, Paris IV, Rennes, Bolonia, Perugia, Pisa, Cork, Porto and London. Agreements for collaboration are planned through Tempus and Alpha programmes with the Centre for Latin American Studies of Warsaw University, the University of Havana and the Advanced Studies Centre of the University of Buenos Aires.
 - University of Córdoba. Two Erasmus programmes, one with Paris VIII (coord.) and the other with Passau (coord.). An agreement between the Universities of Andalusia and those in Northeast Argentina has led to the establishment of relations between the University of Cordoba and the University of Mendoza and Tucuman.
 - University of Las Palmas. Erasmus programme.