

*Irlanda y el Atlántico Ibérico:  
Movilidad, participación e intercambio  
cultural (1580-1823)*

Ireland and the Iberian Atlantic:  
Mobility, involvement and cross-cultural  
exchange 1580-1823

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cultural (1580-1823)*

Escuela Española de Estudios Hispano-Americanos (CSIC)  
Universidad Pablo Olavide, Sevilla



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**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting Spanish Ministry for Education and Science Project**

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Irish émigré group strategies of survival, adaptability and integration in Spain  
(16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> C.) Director: Enrique García Hernán, CSIC

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Spanish-Irish Relations through the Ages**

Director: Declan Downey, University College Dublin (UCD)

**A project connected to**

IRCHSS research project

The Irish in the Habsburg and Bourbon Naval World, 1580-1815

Director: Prof. Ciaran Brady, Dpt. of Modern History Trinity College Dublin

The international conference under the title *Ireland and the Iberian Atlantic: Mobility, participation and cultural exchange (1580-1823)* and the subsequent publication of the papers aim to culminate the work carried out since 2005 by the Research Group (RG) “Foreign Communities in the Spanish Monarchy (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century): Identity and the integration of the Irish nation in Europe”. Our objective is to debate the major issues and to face the emerging challenges - both historiographic and methodological - focusing especially on the phenomenon of Irish migration to Modern Europe and the Atlantic world. On a basis of what has been heretofore published by our RG, the conference will address the following issues: how to maximise the benefits from all the information placed at the disposal of researchers over this period; what are the most salient historiographical challenges to be faced; what is the significance of the Irish as a minority within the Spanish Monarchy; in what way does the analysis of the latter point provide information on how that minority operated and on its internal and external image during the Modern period.

From this standpoint, the RG aims to open up new thematic areas bearing on Spanish and Irish Modern history and on the issue of Modern history in general. The migration and integration of communities during the Modern period is placed within the framework of political, social, economic and cultural processes, processes to which they actively contributed. Our endeavour is to integrate the results of the study of the Irish into a comparative framework of *The Europeans in Movement* in the Modern period and thereby tackle the following issues: what similarities and differences do the different foreign communities evidence both with respect to each other as with respect to the receiving society; what elements do they count on to cope with the receiving society; what is the cultural hallmark of the different communities or of the groups that went to make up each community in question vis-à-vis each other and vis-à-vis the receiving society; how do negotiations for integration and flexibility in the receiving society unfold; in what way does the Atlantic expansion of the Modern states affect the circulation and expectations of the minorities within these states. The study of minorities is crucial for the study of new directions in research in the history of science, culture, gender or consumption, all bearing on the following issues: what is the role of the immigrant minorities in the development, interpretation and circulation of new ideas, products and behaviour patterns; in what way and to what extent did the experience of Irish women immigrants differ from that of their male counterparts; what opportunities were available to women and what were they barred from, for reasons of their sex, both within the immigrant community itself and in the receiving society; what mechanisms for ascent or opportunities for freedom can explain phenomena such as the cases of Marie-Louise O’Murphy in France or the Marchoness of Albiville and her five daughters in the court of Spain.

Finally, we aim to give an Atlantic turn to the issue, highlighting for the first time how the Irish participation in the Iberian monarchies was not limited to Europe, but extended worldwide in like manner as did the Modern Iberian

monarchies and their subjects. We believe that the Atlantic or world dimension of the Modern migratory phenomenon must be tackled. In point of fact, the study of the minorities may be a good microscopic case with which to understand the significance of the experience of the Europeans in the Modern period.

Key words: Ireland, Spain, Portugal, America, exile, social integration, market, economy, Modern period.