



A wonderful conference in Galicia, replete with verdant and historical sights

Dear ACIS Members!

Dear ACIS Members,

We hope you are having a wonderful start into 2026. In this issue, we happily recount our vivacious and successful 2025 conference in Santiago de Compostela.

You'll find an account of it in our Flashback, written by Scott Lancaster, one of our PGRs. Another PGR, Irina Malyuchenko, will tell you all about our upcoming early career workshop for graduate students.

We will announce our 2026 conference location and our Call for Papers for our next annual conference.

Find all about this and more! We are looking forward to seeing you all at our next conference later this year.

Happy reading from your PGRs:



Scott Lancaster Irina Malyuchenko

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Flashback: Annual Conference in Santiago de Compostela

The 46th Annual ACIS Conference took place September 3-5 at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC). The Rede Galabra/USC, under the coordination of Prof. Elias Torres Feijó, hosted the conference in the Galician capital.

Since joining ACIS as an institutional partner in 2024, Rede Galabra has become a key player in advancing ACIS' mission: the multidisciplinary study of socio-cultural, economic, and political issues and trends shaping Spain, Portugal, and the Hispanic and Lusophone worlds, during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.



Santiago welcomed attendees with (surprisingly) limited rainfall and plenty of sunshine.

Founded in Santiago de Compostela in 1998, Rede Galabra is a pioneering research group, incorporating scholars from universities and institutions across Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Angola, and Mozambique. Dedicated to studying the intersections of culture, language, politics, and society, especially in Iberian and Lusophone contexts, Rede Galabra has produced cutting-edge and timely research into the dynamic ways in which people and communities structure their lives, classify their environments, engage in the world, and adapt to change.



The social programme included a scintillating dive into Galician cuisine, history and culture.

It is this innovative approach that has enabled the group to advance knowledge across languages and promote meaningful dialogue across diverse cultural and linguistic landscapes, qualities that make Rede Galabra a valued partner of ACIS for the foreseeable future.

This year's conference in Santiago welcomed over 100 presenters, giving space to an expansive range of academic voices, perspectives, and disciplines. An array of professors, graduate students, and independent researchers came from Spain, Ireland, the U.K., Portugal, Brazil, the United States, India, among others. This multinational gathering further attests to the success of ACIS' vision to build lasting connections in academic communities beyond the U.K. and Ireland.

Flashback: Annual Conference in Santiago

Coinciding with the 530th anniversary of USC's founding, the 2025 Conference provided another veritable showcase of disciplines and perspectives. Presentations and panels ranged from analysis of networks of tourism and pilgrimage to politics, art, and society in Spain and Lusophone communities. Presenters also delved into exile and loss brought on by the Spanish Civil War to literature, music, theater, and cinema as expressions of feminism, magical realism, identity and memory in contemporary Galicia, Spain, Portugal. The interplay between these representations, and others, reflects the transnational viewpoints and intercultural dialogue at the heart of ACIS.



The chancellor of the USC, Antonio López addresses ACIS members.

Such exploration of social questions and cultural production yielded not only an exciting assortment of presentations but also generated three exciting keynote addresses. In looking at post-independence Angolan literature in the context of instructor training and professional development, Prof. Domingos Manaça Joaquim from Angola's Instituto Superior de Ciências da Educação de Luanda advocated a turn toward indigeneity to develop a truly Angolan literature.



Prof. Domingos Manaça Joaquim on the indigenous turn in Angolan literature

Whereas the influence of Portugal and writers gazing towards Portugal continues to define how literature is presented and taught, such 'Portugalidade,' or love, affection, or longing for Portugal, must not overshadow or deprive the need for a corresponding 'Angolidade.' In this sense, Prof. Manaça Joaquim called on literary figures and scholars alike to embrace the oralities and traditions of Angola's 'povo negro' to generate a more inclusive literature in Angola.



From rap to the "Neotradi": Conference participants at the Soundscapes of Tradition and Modernity Music Panel

Flashback: Annual Conference in Santiago

In his keynote talk, Prof. Xerardo Pereiro of the Universidade de Trás-Os-Montes e Alto Douro, in Vila Real, Portugal, highlighted the latest trends in trans-border Luso-Spanish tourism, demonstrating how since 2000 tourism has prompted a reconsideration of local identities. Given the many interrelationships linking Galicia and Portugal, ideas of mobility and integration constituted a particularly germane topic. Even as they remain competitors, (varying parts of) Spain and Portugal collaborate and benefit from the other through shared, overlapping tourist networks. In contending that tourism in the Iberian Peninsula has resulted in a 'superdiversity across borders and regions,' Prof. Pereiro noted the emergence of a 'new Iberia' rooted firstly in supranational integration between peoples and places.



A roundtable on publishing with the IJIS Editorial Team

Prof. Leigh Mercer, of the University of Washington, expertly surveyed the age of silent film in Spain. Noting Spain's uncertain embrace of this medium and its revolutionary potential, Prof. Mercer revealed how Spanish cinema pioneers expressed both cinephilic and technophobic responses, an incoherent path that reflected the tension between tradition and change that existed not only within Spain's incipient cinematic landscape but reflected the broader tensions shaping social, religious and cultural debates in Spain from the late nineteenth century to the Spanish Civil War. The technical strategies and visual storytelling of Spain's silent film industry signal a wider transnational account, highlighting similitudes and differences between early Spanish cinema in comparison to other national cinemas.



Resonance and resistance: Mondra's masterful performance of Galician tradition

Flashback: Annual Conference in Santiago

Like earlier iterations, the 2025 Conference highlighted Galician identity and culture in riveting ways. Rede Galabrea/USC invited local musical artist Mondra to discuss his musical philosophy and regale attendees with an intimate concert. The performance reflected the revindication of Galician music and language and the use of everyday items, such as seat cushions and spice tins, to make music. The legacy of utilizing household items to make music harkens back to decades of suppression under the Franco dictatorship. Spain's transition to democracy and devolution of authority has since witnessed a revival of local and regional expression, whether it be in music, cinema, theater, or another mode.



The timeless granite streets of Santiago's Old Town

A walking tour of Santiago's historic center yielded more than fifty attendees. From the USC campus to the famed the Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the tour offered a singular glimpse of Santiago through the eyes of its USC inhabitants. The tour concluded with a visit to the Fonseca Palace, USC's historic nexus in the heart of Santiago. The palace also served as the backdrop to an opulent three-course meal to conclude the conference.



2025 attendees enjoyed a special treat: a walking tour of Santiago's historic center through the eyes of USC students and instructors.

Alongside the indefatigable work of Profs. Elias Torres Feijó and María Felisa Rodríguez Prado, special thanks goes to the incredible USC staff who made the Conference run incredibly smoothy. The USC doctoral cohort at the Faculty of Philology also deserve a special thanks for their tireless work in making the 2025 Conference an amazing one!



Amongst the shelves: stepping into the historic Biblioteca América during the Santiago tour

Upcoming Annual Conference in Braga

We are delighted to announce that the **47th Annual Conference** will take place at the **University of Minho (Universidade do Minho)** from **2 – 4 September 2026**, under the theme “Iberian Relations, Europeanisation and Transatlantic Exchanges”. The event will be hosted by UMinho Galabra, Centro de Estudos Humanísticos, and coordinated by **Carlos Pazos Justo** and **Ana Bessa Carvalho**. The conference will take place in person, with remote participation available for ACIS members residing on other continents.



If you wish to offer a paper, please access the Conference Webpage

<https://eventos.cehum.elach.uminho.pt/47acis/index.html> and send your proposal to the ACIS 2026 Programme Convenor Carlos Pazos-Justo and Ana Bessa Carvalho by **FRIDAY, 15th MAY 2026**.

Informal enquiries concerning papers and topics are welcome before the deadlines. Conference booking can be made by accessing the conference webpage <https://eventos.cehum.elach.uminho.pt/47acis/index.html> and there is more information about the Association at: <https://www.iberianstudies.net/conferences>

Proposals for individual papers as well as panels on specific themes (max. four papers per panel) are encouraged. Any proposed panel should be organised by one convenor, who will be responsible for inviting the speakers and chairing the session. You are also invited to suggest any speakers you think would be willing to offer a paper, but please note that ACIS does not normally offer a fee or expenses for speakers.

ACIS encourages proposals from postgraduate students and a small number of partial conference fee bursaries are available – please see application process details below and encourage your students to consider this.

Under the generic title Iberian relations, Europeanisation and Transatlantic Exchanges below are the suggested thematic areas for papers panels and projects, which must advance understanding of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century socio-cultural, economic and political issues and realities and relate primarily to Spain and/or Portugal and transnational issues and processes relating to the Iberian Peninsula within the wider Lusophone and Hispanic worlds. Both single-disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives are encouraged and the themes listed below are not exclusive.

Impacts of European policies on Iberian relations; Politics, Government, International Relations, the EU, Nationalism, Regionalisms, Transnational issues and processes; Economics, Business, Labour, Social and Welfare issues; Cultural Production in all its forms (e.g. film, television, journalism, literature, media, advertising, digital communication & social networking); Social and Cultural Studies (e.g. identity, gender, ethnicity, popular culture); Leisure, Tourism, Sport; Contemporary History; Language, Linguistics, Language Policy; Education and Pedagogy; Relationships between narratives, communities, territories.

Upcoming Annual Conference in Braga

The selection of panels/papers will be made by the Conference programme convenors in consultation with the Scientific committee and these decisions will be final.

Conference fees

In Person:

- Student – ACIS members/CEHUM members/Galabra members - EARLY BIRD: 60€
- Student - non-members - EARLY BIRD: 85€
- Members ACIS/CEHUM/Galabra - EARLY BIRD: 85€
- Non-members - EARLY BIRD: 100€
- Student – ACIS members/CEHUM members/Galabra members - STANDARD: 85€
- Student - non-members - STANDARD: 90€
- Members ACIS/SEHUM – STANDARD: 100€
- Non-members – STANDARD: 120€

Online participation:

- Virtual: ACIS members residing on other continents: 70€

For online presenters, a video of the presentation will be requested at the appropriate time. This ensures smooth delivery and technical preparation for the conference.

Institutional membership

Researchers affiliated with the Galabra Group, an Institutional Member of ACIS, should register based on their status: Student or Member (non-student). They are eligible for all registration modalities, including: Early Bird/ Standard.

Deadlines

- Early bird payments are accepted until the deadline, **SATURDAY, 15th JULY 2026**
- Standard payments are accepted until the deadline, **SUNDAY, 30th JULY 2026**

Important dates

January 15-May 15	Submission of proposals
June 15	Notification of acceptance of proposals
June 16-July 15	Registration period
July 30	Publication of the provisional programme
September 2-4	Congress

Web site: <http://eventos.cehum.elach.uminho.pt/47acis>

Email: 47acis@elach.uminho.pt

Job Opportunities

Here are some interesting Job Opportunities:

Professor (Modern Languages, Literatures & Cultures)



Maynooth University, Ireland



https://my.corehr.com/pls/nuimrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.display_form



15/02/2026

Assistant Professor (Spanish Linguistics)



Auburn University, AL, USA



<https://www.auemployment.com/postings/58053>



15/02/2026

Director (School of Language & Literature)



University of Central Arkansas, AR, USA



<https://jobs.uca.edu/postings/18382>



open until filled

PhD position Motivating people to contribute to societal transitions (Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences)



University of Groningen, Netherlands



<https://werkenbij.rug.nl/vacature/phd-position-motivating-people-to-contribute-to-societal-transitions-1506/?lang=en>



15/02/2026

ACIS Members - The Early Career Workshop

If you joined us at our last conference in Santiago de Compostela, you likely noticed the same thing we did: the room was buzzing with the energy of a record number of young, early-career researchers. Seeing such a vibrant influx of new talent made one thing clear: ACIS is not just growing, it is evolving.

To support this momentum, we are thrilled to announce a key highlight in our upcoming calendar: the **ACIS Early Career Workshop** (currently in development). This session, designed specifically for postgraduate students and those just starting their academic careers, will contribute to the training of a new generation of scholars in the field of Iberian studies.

What to expect

While the specific thematic focus and schedule are currently being finalized, the workshop will address core professional competencies, including:

- Professional transitions: Navigating the post-MA and post-PhD landscape, with a focus on career development and identifying opportunities both within and beyond traditional academic roles.
- The academic market and portfolio building: global economy of university jobs, fellowships, and research grants.
- Strategic networking within the international scholarly community: techniques for engaging with senior scholars to understand the unwritten rules of different national university systems and forthcoming (unadvertised) opportunities; identifying and approaching mentors who can provide objective advice on career pivots, especially when transitioning from an MA or PhD into the broader academic market.

When: TBD

Where: online

Who: Open to all current graduate students and early-career researchers

Stay connected

Don't forget to follow us on our social channels for live updates as we get closer to the event. We cannot wait to see the fresh perspectives you will bring to the table!

ACIS Members - Let's Get Social

The energy at our conferences is undeniable, but we want to keep that conversation going all year round! To help ACIS reach a wider audience and support the incredible work of our members, we are ramping up our digital presence - and we need your help to do it.

Showcase your latest work

Have you recently published a book relevant to Iberian Studies? We want to help you celebrate that milestone! We invite all members to showcase their recent publications on the ACIS Publications Page. This is a valuable resource for keeping our community updated on the latest scholarship in the field.

Submit your work here: iberianstudies.net/publications

Social media engagement and networking

As preparations for our next assembly proceed, we encourage members to disseminate information regarding the conference and scheduled panels across their professional networks. Whether reflecting on the proceedings in Santiago de Compostela or providing insights into forthcoming research presentations, we invite you to mention our official accounts. This collaboration allows the Association to amplify your contributions and extend the reach of contemporary Iberian scholarship to a broader audience.

Find us on your platform of choice:

Twitter/X [@acis47th](https://twitter.com/acis47th)

Bluesky [@acis46.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/acis46.bsky.social)

Instagram [@acis47th](https://www.instagram.com/acis47th)

Facebook [Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies: ACIS](https://www.facebook.com/AssociationforContemporaryIberianStudies)

Linkedin [Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies \(ACIS\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AssociationforContemporaryIberianStudies)

We're here to promote you

ACIS functions as a collaborative network dedicated to the advancement of its members' scholarly contributions. If you have an upcoming event, book launch, or call for papers related to Iberian Studies that you would like us to promote through our official channels, please feel free to get in touch. We are always happy to use our platform to amplify the work of our members.

Closing remarks

Dear ACIS Members and Friends,

In recognition of the vibrant and growing community of early career researchers within our Association, ACIS is expanding its team by seeking **one** additional **Postgraduate Representative (PGR)**. This new position will work alongside our current representative to ensure that the voices, research interests, and professional needs of our post-MA and doctoral members are fully integrated into the strategic planning of the Association.

The key responsibilities of the ACIS PGR are to:

- Network with the PG community in Iberian Studies and related disciplines at the annual ACIS conference and online between conferences to encourage postgraduate engagement and participation and publicise opportunities such as the annual ACIS conference scholarships.
- Work with the PG Liaison Officer and the other PGRs where appropriate to produce a newsletter for postgraduates.
- In collaboration with the Board, organise a postgraduate event at the annual ACIS conference.
- Represent the postgraduate community at ACIS executive meetings.

An expression of interest together with a current CV should be sent to the ACIS Secretary (esther.gimeno@upf.edu) with the subject 'PG Representative' by **Monday, 16 March 2026**.

Applications will be reviewed by the ACIS Executive. The selected candidates will be ratified by the next AGM.

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and found the information useful. Please do not hesitate to write to us if you have any suggestions or comments. Please let us know if you would like to be featured with your research in our newsletter and/or our podcast as we continuously work to strengthen the ACIS network and foster collaborations.

You can reach us via:

slancast@ucsd.edu

irina.malyuchenko@rai.usc.es



<https://www.iberianstudies.net>