

**33rd INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS, BEIJING, 21-25
AUGUST 2016. PAPER SESSIONS ON HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY**

Deadline for abstract submissions: 15 February 2016.

Abstracts proposals should be submitted (in English or French) via the 33rd IGC website: <http://www.igc2016.org>

SESSION NO. 1: STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY: PAST AND PRESENT

Chairs: Jacobo García-Álvarez (Carlos III University of Madrid) & Jean-Yves Puyo (University of Pau)

Summary: Through its nearly 48-years existence, the Commission on the History of Geography has served as a forum for exchanging ideas and outcomes on both the history of the field and, more widely, the history of geographical knowledges, experiences and practices, and their consequences and usefulness for understanding contemporary world.

This session invites papers devoted to any significant aspect the history of geography and geographical thought except for those proposals submitted to the themed session on “Geographical imaginations, practices and stories of *finisterrae* and border spaces”, jointly organized with the Cultural Approach in Geography Commission (see description below).

**SESSION NO. 2: GEOGRAPHICAL IMAGINATIONS, PRACTICES AND STORIES OF
FINISTERRAE AND BORDER SPACES.**

Joint session co-organised by the Commissions on the Cultural Approach in Geography and History of Geography

Chairs: Enrique Aliste (University of Chile) & Perla Zusman (University of Buenos Aires)

Summary: During the history of state formation, some certain territories were constructed as borders or *finisterrae* through different practices, such as exploration, delimitation and demarcation of boundaries, narratives or visual identifications representation of their limitations, or the attribution of certain economic, social and political qualities.

States devised several projects (creation of national parks and reserves, expansion of infrastructure and human settlements, indigenous reserves etc.) in order to incorporate *finisterrae* not only into the nation but also into the capitalist dynamic.

In the context of globalization, many of these territories acquired new meanings as natural heritage or tourist attractions. While historical practices and discourses are being

recreated today, social movements simultaneously contest them. Through their actions, these movements are creating new territories and new geographical imaginations.

Within this context, thinking of border spaces and *finisterrae* means focusing on a geographical problem from its historicity and memory and draws attention to the significance of mobilities in their everyday transformations. Consequently, the investigation of frontier territories like Patagonia, Alaska, Siberia or Amazonia must focus on the cultural and epistemological dynamics that shape the construction of *finisterrae*.

This session proposes to connect research that works with such spaces and seeks to identify their specific issues, from the cultural approach in geography and the history of geographical knowledge.