A medium term research programme for the Agricultural, Social and Political History of rural Galicia, in the context of the Historical Evolution of Europe. The study of the historical processes undergone by the NW of the Iberian Peninsula from the implementation of the liberal government (1812) to the Spanish Civil War (1936): the liberal legislative reform of land ownership rights, the evolution of common goods, technological innovation in agriculture, the articulation of peasant politics, the impact of migratory processes in the rural world...


Concerning the evolution of common goods and the forests of Galicia and Spain in general, which is the basis of our actual concerns in Environmental History, the starting point was Xesús Baiz’s work (1990); O hito más antiguo, with which the author opened up a whole field of study including the analysis of the historical evolution of common goods, particularly common scrubland (1995, 1999, 2000), the ways people used scrubland, the legal framework of forest policy and the analysis of forest fires. Eduardo Rico has studied the forest policy of Spain throughout the 20th century (1995), with a special emphasis on reforestation and its environmental impact, and the timber processing industry (1997, 1999, 2003).

The processes of technological innovation in agriculture were another focal point at the end of the 1980’s in various works of Lourenzo Fernández Prieto, who analysed the role of the State in this process in the 19th and 20th centuries (1988, 2001, 2007), the selective and rational adoption of innovations by farmers in the context of advanced organic agriculture (1992, 2001), Labregos con ciencia (1992), with a focus that is at the root of some of our most recent contributions to Environmental History. In El aporte tecnológico del franquismo (2007) he provides an analysis of the delayed implementation of the green rents in the context of political authoritarianism and the destruction of civil society in the rural world. In their study of the state network of innovation under General Franco, Miguel Cabo and Bernadére Sobreire (1996 and 1999) and Xosé Ramón Veiga dealt with the “innovative owner” in the 19th century (1998) while David Soto (2006) analysed the sustainable nature of reforestation of scrubland in Galicia under the Franco dictatorship.

Agricultural Atlantic organic agriculture and the long-term processes for organic intensification (18th to 20th centuries).


Over the last decade, contributions by new researchers went deeper into the topics on the Group’s original agenda and opened up new paths for research in the field of Rural social history, M. Cabo dealt with the process of politisation in the rural world of Galicia, focusing on the social movement known as “agrarianism” (1996, 1999), and the relation between national construction and rural society (2000b).

Environmental studies started up with X. Balboa (1990), L. Fernández Prieto (1996) on fertilisation, and with Ana Sánchez about the use of water (1999) and E. Rico on the impact of agricultural forestation under the dictatorship and with the recovering of the processes of the industrialisation of Galician agriculture from the late 1950’s with the (application and the environmental consequences) of the authoritarian implementation of the Green Revolution, exogenous and contradictory to the logic of advanced organic agriculture. The contributions of D. Soto (2002, 2006) and W. Picado (2006, 2007), L. Fernández Prieto (2007, 2007b) and D. Lierero (2009) were decisive in opening up this line of study.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGRESSES AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS OF GROUP HISTAGRA

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