

ROAD TO THE STARS

INSAP X - Oxford XI - SEAC 25th

Santiago de Compostela 18th - 22nd September 2017



www.roadtothestars.org

Scientific Rationale

Astronomy as part of the culture and society has a clear social character that needs to be studied. Cultural Astronomy attempts to do so by exploring the way in which different societies across history and in present times deal with the issues where the sky is involved.

Santiago de Compostela is at the end of the most important European Pilgrimage route, the 'Road to Santiago' (Camino de Santiago). Compostela, from Latin Campus Stellae, can be translated as the 'field of the steles', but has also traditionally been nicknamed as the 'Field of the Star'. Indeed, cultural and traditional astronomy has played a significant role in the configuration of the actual place of Santiago, a role that probably links with a deep and very old tradition of astronomy in the local culture across centuries and millennia (for instance, in Spain, the Milky Way is traditionally known as "El Camino de Santiago"). Such tradition has inspired artists, rulers and the like and we can now profit from the experience of a truly astronomical landscape with different layers of knowledge added at different epochs from the megalithic phenomenon to present time, including Bronze Age rock art and medieval hierophanies in churches.

Such landscape and setting is the place for the conference "Road to the Stars", a joint meeting of the ISAAC, SEAC and the INSAP. It will be a great occasion for the celebration, for the first time in the history of our discipline, of a composite meeting of all three main traditional forums on Cultural Astronomy worldwide.

First announcement and call for papers

We invite proposals for papers for the “Road to the Stars” to be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Proposals may consider the role of astronomy in any aspect of culture and may address any time period or region. We are interested in current research and we welcome presentation of artists who are willing to exhibit their artwork at the conference. A special area at the renaissance cloister of the Fonseca College will be devoted for such exhibition. All proposals, both for oral presentations, posters and artwork will be reviewed by the SOC and SAC (<http://www.roadtothestars.org/repertorio>).

Authors are asked to submit an extended abstract (a maximum of up to 500 words and a single B/W figure) including the background, aim, data and results with at least 3 references. For artwork proposals we would like to have a description of the artwork, relevance to the conference theme and aims.

The abstract should be submitted as a pdf to the address jba@iac.es with CC copy to the congress e-mail congreso.seac2017@gmail.com

The **Deadline for proposals is 28th February 2017.**

All accepted abstracts will be published on the abstract book, both oral and poster.

We expect to have the program ready by May 1st 2017

A maximum of 60 contributions will be accepted as oral presentations. Due to this tight schedule a number of proposals for oral presentations might be suggested to be presented as posters.

Each speaker will have 20 minutes for their presentation, including questions.

Proceedings will be published on Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry (<http://www.maajournal.com/>)

Venue

Famous for being the end of the renowned pilgrimage route, Santiago is today the Capital of the autonomous region of Galicia (Spain), in the northwest corner of the Iberian Peninsula. Besides, it is the seat of the oldest University in the region. Despite its small size (everything is within walking distance), these three former factors combined make of Santiago a hub for cultural activities throughout the year. Galicia is recognized within Spain as a region with a rich and varied culinary tradition, including both seafood and tasty veal together with extraordinary varieties of wine.

The conference will take place at the Centro de Estudios Avanzados – Casa de Europa complex in downtown Santiago, inside the Vista Alegre Park and next to the newly inaugurated Natural Science Museum. This is a complex belonging to the University of Santiago de Compostela. It houses a large conference room, for more than 100 attendees, a small hall able to hold poster, as well as the coffee breaks. The artwork exhibition will be at the renaissance cloister of the Fonseca College, at the old city center, just 50m meters from the Cathedral square (Obradoiro).

Travel & Access

Santiago has a small but modern and fully operative International Airport, [Lavacolla](#), with several daily flight connections to Madrid and Barcelona (and from there to the rest of the world), and several flights per week to Milan, Paris, London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Basel and other European destinations.

There are regular [buses](#) and indeed [taxis](#) connecting the airport with the town at just 10 km.

Santiago is also connected by high-speed [train](#) (AVE) to Madrid as well as by splendid but long motorways (5½ and 6 hour drive from Madrid and Hendaye, respectively).

Accommodation and Meals

Santiago is a famous tourist destination, besides a University town, so there are plenty of different accommodation facilities, ranging from youth hostels in shared rooms for 4€ per person, or [University halls](#), with ensuite individual rooms from 10€ (we will try to reserve a few for our delegates), to all ranges of one, two, three or four star hotels (just check e.g. www.booking.com).

We won't offer accommodation through the organizing committee but a list of convenient Hotels close to the venue will be provided in next circulars. We are trying to arrange a number of 'pilgrim rooms' at the Monasterio de San Martin Pinario. This is a recently refurbished and renovated old monastery, next to the cathedral, that offers a B/B accommodation in simple but ensuite rooms for a fairly cheap price. We offer these accommodation for young researchers and for scholars coming from afar (we encourage scholars from eastern European countries to contact the LOC for information).

Schedule and important dates

- 15th December 2016, first announcement and opening of abstract submission
- 1st February 2017, second announcement and opening of early registration
- 28th February 2017, closing of the abstract submission process
- 1st May 2017, third circular with the abstract acceptance and tentative program
- 30th June 2017, end of early registration
- 31st August 2017, end late registration
- Conference 18th-22nd September 2017
- Post conference excursion, 23rd September 2017