

First Congress Toponomasticon Hispaniae: interterritoriality and interdisciplinarity

Toponymy, the world's amount of place names created by the human being all along History, is a heritage asset protected by UNESCO, because it offers a testimony on the the actions performed by Humanity on our planet and even outside it. Place names are proper names that describe natural and cultural features of our environment and that tend to fossilize over time. They constitute an inexhaustible source of data on geography, geology, botany, fauna, hydrology, popular beliefs, religion, language and ethnology. The diachronic perspective offered by many of them makes it possible to virtually reconstitute a good deal of natural and cultural elements that have already disappeared. In addition, they have a referential value, since they designate places and distinguish them from one another. They also have an identity value, since the inhabitants of a site feel emotionally linked to it and, therefore, to the name associated with it. Toponymy is, therefore, an interdisciplinary field in which various disciplines and methodologies come together. The aim of the "First Congress Toponomasticon Hispaniae: interterritoriality and interdisciplinarity" is to bring together experienced researchers working in this field and desiring to exchange experiences and perspectives. We are deeply convinced of the need to preserve and investigate the Hispanic toponymical heritage, an immaterial treasure shared by different lands with different languages, a goal that only a collaborative project can reach.