

**Territorial management and planning in Galicia:
From its origins to end of Fraga administration, 1950s – 2004**

(Abstract)

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This thesis critically assesses the territorial management and planning practice in Galicia. In order to achieve this goal, attention is focused on two main issues: the characteristics of the current administrative territorial structure and contemporary key spatial plans and policies. The temporal scope of this research is the 1950-2004 period. The late 1950s indicate the introduction of modern territorial planning in Galicia. On the other hand, 2004 marks a change of government: the end of the ‘Fraga administration’ (1989-2004), characterised by a series of specific and defining planning issues.

Contemporary territorial management and planning practice was introduced relatively late in Galicia, in 1956, while strategic planning was not introduced until 1992. Thus, the development and implementation of spatial strategies did not always imply positive results. It can be argued that the fundamental dilemma resides in the failure to establish a framework of reference, in effect, a general development plan or spatial strategy capable of co-ordinating and integrating all the different social, economic and territorial actors.

Despite all the achievements made since the devolution of (partial) self-government from 1978, it seems as if there were not enough, and those made came too slowly to counteract the destruction of the landscape, embodied in the concept of *feísmo* (‘ugliness’). It can be concluded that Galicia is still in need of a civic and political shift, alongside the establishment of a national territorial and economic strategy, which ought to incorporate the vision of a preferred territorial model and model of development.