

**Antonio Malpica Cuello, Sonia Villar Mañas, Guillermo García-Contreras Ruiz, Luis Martínez Vázquez**  
Universidad de Granada (Spain)

## **In search of the shepherds. Archaeological and historical perspectives for the study of salt and animal husbandry in Granada**

We present here the first results of an ongoing research project that seeks to connect the historical study of pastoralism with other farmers' activities, especially salt production and agriculture. The research project is funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Research and it is entitled "SALGARN: Sal y Ganadería en el Reino de Granada (Siglos XIII-XV)"

In the first season, we have been focused on the area north of Granada, known as the Altiplano, comprising Huéscar and its region (comarca). Given its geological and climatic conditions it is often considered as a semi-desert region. Also a low-intensity agriculture is practised, with a landscape of alternating mountains and valleys that allows animal husbandry.

We pretend to discuss the methodology that is been used. Also the our focus in the research: the search for drovers' roads, the places where the animals drink (water tanks and wells), grassland areas, wetlands and pens. As in most landscape studies, we have combined place names with the study of the historical sources, ethnological inquiries and archaeological surveying. The historical perspective we pursue is broad, covering from the Middle Ages to our days. Getting to know how today's shepherds live and work may be very useful when unraveling their traditional way of life.