



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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Calpe Conference 2008

**International Conference on
The Evolution of Identities: small communities in space and time**

This year's Calpe Conference will be formally inaugurated by the Hon Edwin Reyes, Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Leisure at 09.30 on Wednesday 17th September, 2008, at the John Mackintosh Hall.

Adopting a multi-disciplinary approach, this year's conference will examine the construction and evolution of identity in small communities through time and space. The aim is to bring together archaeologists, anthropologists, social scientists and historians to discuss the birth, adaptations and collapse of communities. Specifically, communities which as a consequence of size or perception are either subsumed within a larger body politic (such as indigenous communities) or are independently recognised and constituted but of reduced population or geographic size (such as mini-states or state-lets) will be examined.

The term community is ascribed to an 'ethnic' or political concept of the term, in so far as the community identifies itself as a separate construct in relation to neighbouring groups. It is the concept of the community as a distinctly recognised body by others which will be explored.

In concentrating on the origin and evolution of small communities the conference will aim to elucidate how identity is defined and transformed through contact with the 'other'. The aim is to investigate how small communities negotiate their separate identities through the active manipulation of the social record enshrined, for instance, in myths, history, language, tradition and material culture.

The conference will run from the 17th to the 20th of September and promises to be an exciting opportunity to hear both international and local speakers discussing the results of their research. A full programme of the event, together with registration details, is available upon request at the Gibraltar Museum and John Mackintosh Hall receptions, and these can also be found on the official Calpe 2008 website:

http://www.gib.gi/museum/calpe_programme2008.html.

The conference is open to registered applicants. Residents of Gibraltar wishing to attend may do so, as usual, at no cost but are required to register in advance.

For further information, please contact the Gibraltar Museum on telephone 20074289. Alternatively email museumpr@gibraltar.gi with "Calpe 2008" in the subject line.