



 XUNTA DE GALICIA  
CONSELLERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN  
E ORDENACIÓN UNIVERSITARIA

*IES de MUGARDOS*



*IES de Mugardos* (Mugardos High school)

## *Family histories to learn*

Introduction: Center context

In the confines of Costa Artabra in the far western peninsula of Bezoucos, there is a sober building which houses the Mugardos High school, a public metropolitan area of Ferrol-terra, in which young people live together and formed the councils of Ares and Mugardos. From there they start a hoping path abroad the extensive sea of agile invisible waves, walk that will make know their projects and share experiences in an educational center that aims to achieve the primary education of students in relation to the rights and fundamental freedoms and the exercise of tolerance and respect.

**Migration**

**And another journeys**



## Objectives and procedures

The initial idea came, in principle, from a professor in the department of galician language and then added the english teacher. Their idea was to spread it to the other colleagues.

The **basic aim** was to explain the linguistic prejudices about galician language into Mugardos people and, in particular, youth, and recovering the historical memory of their relatives, memory that contributes to better know each other and know your surroundings. We wanted to show that the family is part of the teaching-learning process if we give a main role to families, if we let them participate in school life by presenting their experiences directly and integrating it to work peer to peer.

This educational experience is taking place this course 2009-2010 in levels 3 and 4 of ESO (*compulsory secondary education*) in the area of galician language and with the cooperation of students of English in last degrees of secondary education, starting from the idea that many public figures and famous that we know were emigrants or came from migrant families as the Portuguese José Saramago, Nobel Prize in Literature.

First we chose one set of characters of renown, and then each student, or in small groups, investigated the past and present of this character collecting information, pictures, etc., discovering that a good portion of them were related to migration, through their ascendant relatives or directly themselves. With this, they made a poster **exhibition** by stairs and corridors of the center to share with other comrades. This year held posters with information and photographs of 51 famous personalities who have had to do with this world of emigration.

Moreover, students in 3rd and 4th of ESO (14 and 15 years) **investigated the past of their families** conducting interviews and discovering that in almost every house had someone who had been compelled to emigrate, and in some cases, forced into exile, thanks for the month of misery of their ancestors, the past attempting to flee and forget. This knowledge also takes place allowing parents or grandparents to come to the center to tell the students their experiences, experiences that allow also know the problems of the community and its surroundings.

All this is reflected through this suitcase, or the stories of students who wrote some of his ancestors counting the causes of the manifestation of life these people led to emigration, and check how they fit into society when they returned to their country, that is ours. These stories accompanied by photographs of significant which meant the abandonment of land and family. Show the realities and sufferings of life more raw, as was the separation from loved ones and fled to an unknown world.

## Conclusions and success factors

The past of the famous people that was investigated helped us to know the history of the people around us and understand that the families of these students were not very different, and also contributed to learn from the past to avoid repeating their mistakes.

Knowledge of the history of their ancestors also showed that families have many things to give the teaching-learning process and play an important role in that we give them no place. This project allowed to know some of the problems surrounding the pupil and reprogram some activity in their classrooms by combining with the curriculum.

On the other hand, this project revealed that most of the prejudices about the galician language and its abandonment are related with the idea of escaping that past miserable and hostile, that gave them away, shame them now and therefore try to forget.

Hence, most people in this city, and especially young people do not usually use the galician language.



## MATERIAIS ELABORADOS:

### MATERIALS elaborated:

#### I AM ...

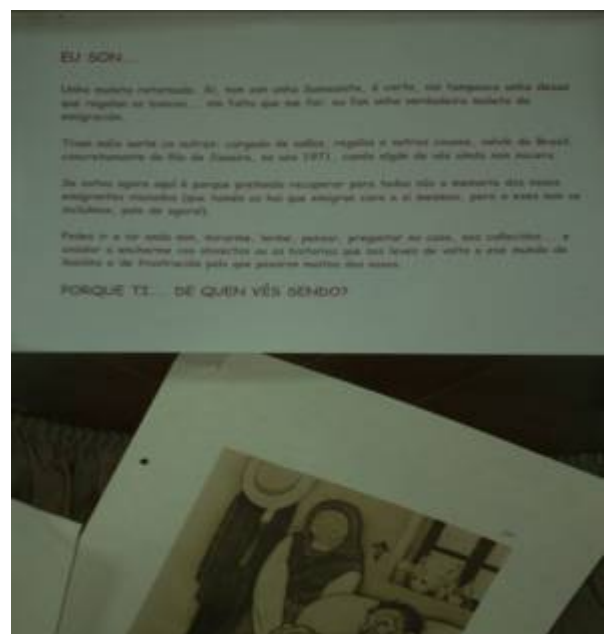
A bag returned. Yes, I am not a Samsonite, admittedly, not one of those which the banks give ... and there's no need at all: I was a real bag of emigration.

I was more lucky than others: full of dreams, gifts and other things, came back from Brazil, specifically Rio de Janeiro, in 1971, when some of us had not been born.

If I'm here now is because we all want to recover the memory of our emigrants (there are also that which migrate to themselves but we don't included them for now!).

You can come and go were I am, look at me, read me, think, ask at home to relatives or acquaintances... and help me to fill with objects or stories that take us back to this world of illusions and frustration many of us have experienced.

BECAUSE YOU ... WHOSE ARE YOU?



The man pictured was my great-uncle Andres. Born in 1892 and died in 1987 in Cabanas, where his mother, Amparo, grew up. His father was born in Pontevedra, was named Elias and worked as stonemason.

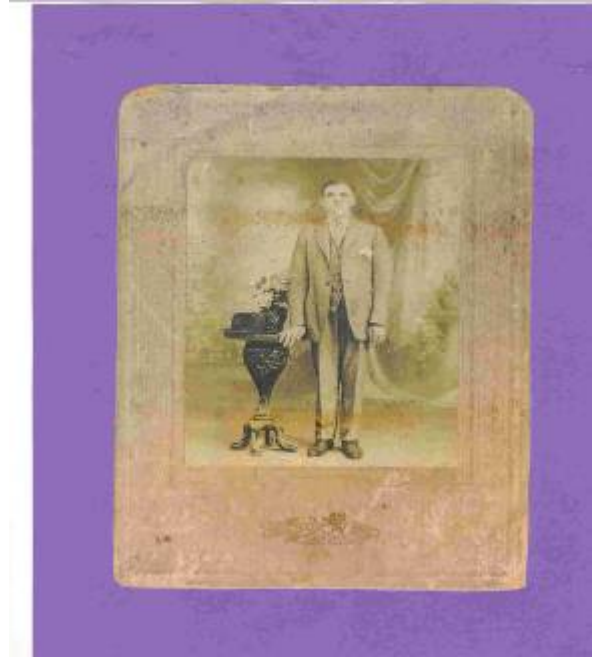
Exactly, because he didn't want to pursue the profession of his father, escaped from home and emigrated to North America. There he had several jobs: bootblack, kitchen assistant, etc..

He had no wife or children. He sent to family money and photos, this particular one was made in New York.

Returned from Bahia in 1965 and won his retreat in U.S. dollars, because he had American nationality.

He always told his nephews that he has hired his burial there yet, with six white horses leading a wagon. He didn't predicted that he would die here!

Eduardo Fernandes Peres





The great-grandfather Johannes Storm was not exactly an emigrant. Perhaps this story tells a sad life, but in the end ...

Born in the late nineteenth century, within a middle class family with a father doctor and two sisters who died of lymphoma. This was a real blow to him, but with 17 years old also his mother died (of cancer of the uterus).

He graduated in Medicine at the University of Rotterdam and founded a family with Enrika Breckeismans, with whom he had two daughters, Villalmina and Hella.

But was soon captured by the Nazis and taken to a concentration camp in Austria, from which he escaped to return to the Netherlands ... walking!

Although he survived, was not very lucky: he arrived malnourished and blind and could only be two years with his family, till he died.

Alexandra Kuntz Hairdresser



This photo was taken in the times when my father had to emigrate to Switzerland to help his family, for there were many brothers and he was the greatest.

He didn't have a good time because he was 14 and when he got there, and met with her aunt, whom she would live, had no place for him, moreover, could not have an employment contract because he wasn't old enough.

For four years, slept on the benches of the train station because he did temporary jobs and had not enough money to pay an accommodation.

When completed the 18 someone made him a contract and when he was 21 she returned.

Varela Caramel Payo



Este é o meu bisavó César, que tivo un pasado moi duro.

Con 14 anos viuse obrigado a emigrar a Uruguay co seu pai para traballar na agricultura. A súa idea dende sempre foi volver a España, a Galiza.

Cando tivo oportunidade, volveu e instalouse en Vigo, na Guía, onde formou unha familia. Traballou nos estaleiros e alí meteu ao seu fillo, meu avó; co diñeiro que gañaron fixeron unha casa para este. El tivo oito fillos, entre eles a miña nai.

O meu bisavó morreu cando nacín eu: non o cheguei a coñecer, pero teño a imaxe de que era moi traballador e responsable.

David Romero Millos

